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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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José Brito describes
the idea and methods
used to create his
Normandy vignette

LAST RESORT (SEPTEMBER 1946)

Jan Peters builds
Trumpeter's E-10

STAGHOUND

Full size photo report on
the T17E1 Armoured Car

DX-08

MAFVA Nationals 2008
Show Report

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Matt Wellhouser goes large with his stunning 1:16 T-34/85 diorama

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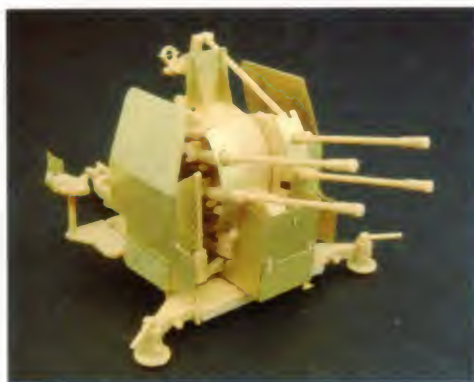
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HAULER LOO YAH

There seems to be no stopping Hauler at the moment, as they have been consistently producing some very impressive detail sets for Tamiya's ever expanding range of 1:48 military vehicles. Here's a list of the latest sets.

For the full range of hauler products check out www.hauler.com

PADLOCKS HLX48242

2 CM FLAK 38 FLAKVIERLING BASIC SET HLX48243

2 CM FLAK 38 FLAKVIERLING SHIELDS SET HLX48244

U.S. M20 ARMoured CAR BASIC SET HLX48245

U.S. M20 ARMoured CAR INTERIOR SET HLX48246

CRUSADER MK.III HLX48247

WIRBELWIND TURRET HLX48248

1:48TH SCALE SMARTPACKS

BRENCARRIER SPH48006

PZ.IV AUSF.J SPH48007

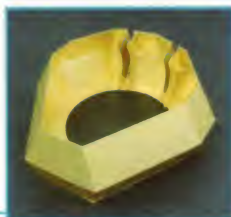
1:48TH SCALE CAST RESIN KITS

KRUPP L3H WEHRMACHT LASTKRAFTWAGEN

HLS48006

1:35TH SCALE UNIVERSAL SETS

PADLOCKS HLU35011



PANZERWRECKS 6

Fans of this fascinating series of books are in for a real treat as the sixth edition will be available any day now. The format remains the same, featuring 96 pages and offers 119 rare and unpublished large format photographs. Highlights will include US captured and converted Sd.Kfz.251s, interior shots of the Flammpanzer 38 along with a see-through Jagdtiger! The question of 'How can you tell a factory fresh m.S.P.W. (7.5cm Pak) (Sd. Kfz.251/22) from a converted m.S.P.W. (7.5cm Kanone) (Sd. Kfz.251/9)?' will be answered as well. The whole series of Panzerwrecks are available from www.panzerwrecks.com

THACHWEAVE TYPO

In issue 27 (July '08) we covered some of the really cool woven bumpers for the new Bronco Land Wasser Schlepper, well I have to admit I made a typo regarding the spelling, it should be "Thachweave" (as opposed to "Thatchweave" with a second 't'). For their full listing please go to www.thachweave.tripod.com and I'm going to dig out my old 'learn to spell with Peter and Jane' books!



Thachweave's latest bumper for the new Bronco LWS

NEW ADDRESS

Robin and the team at Cammett Ltd have now moved to larger premises. We wish them every success for the future. Cammett Ltd, Unit 5 Greenfield Industrial Estate, Forest Road, Hay on Wye, Powys, HR3 5FA. Tel: 01497 822757 www.cammett.co.uk cammettco@btinternet.com



ACADEMY

Fans of Modern US armour in both 1:72 and 1:35 are in for a treat with the announcement of an all new Stryker in 1:72 and an M1A1 Abrams from the second Gulf War in 1:35. Look out for a full report on both as we get them in.

GROUND VEHICLE SERIES9

1:72 M1126 STRYKER Item: 13411

1:35 M1A1 ABRAMS [IRAQ2003] Item: 13202

PLUSMODEL

Two things can be guaranteed with Plusmodel, firstly their kits are always flawlessly produced with clear and concise instructions and the second that is they always produce unusual and interesting subjects. Well these two latest sets definitely meet both criteria, with the great looking USMC Mighty Mite jeep and a stunning little .30 cal water-cooled M1917A1 machine gun and tripod. Plusmodel are available from www.plusmodel.cz and in the UK from www.creativemodels.net SETS - 1:35TH SCALE M422A1 MIGHTY MITE PM35294 U.S. .30 LIGHT WATER-COOLED MACHINE GUN PM35297

Werner Geier (1962-2007)

It is with deep sorrow that we must announce the passing of Werner Geier. He was a great modeler, radio personality, record label owner, RSO historian and restorer. Werner was 45 years young and was born in Murzzuschlag, Austria. He had fought the disease ALS for 13 years before it finally took him from his friends and loved ones. Werner was known to some as a valued radio producer and moderator, radio DJ, and with his friend Rodney Hunter ran the record label Uptight. His influences helped the recording industry in Austria and in 1998 had a piece by Mark Murphy called Song for the Geese nominated for a Grammy. He also worked with a couple of other groups like Massive Attack and Stereo MC's.

Other people will know Werner for his great generosity in helping us with our RSO model building and research. He was in his earlier years an accomplished modeler and always had a great eye and respect for the time and excellence put forward by everyone's efforts. In the 80's, he started getting a deep interest in the real 1:1 scale vehicles as he left the modeling bench. He was involved with a few folks who collected vehicles like Kubelwagens, Schwimmwagens, and other Steyr versions. He decided to move into the fairly uncharted territory of the little RSO trucks. He said he felt the vehicle was odd, exotic, and being Austrian in development, it would be appropriate to pursue.

In closing I would like to add a quote from Stefan De Meyer that I think would sum up our memories of Werner. "Instead of competing for photos we shared our photos and sent each other scans or originals. Werner was the kind of friend whom you gave one new photo of an RSO and who gave you two in return. In other words his life was made of giving and sharing instead of taking and keeping for you." He will be deeply missed by all his friends and family.

Mac Johnston and Jimmy Ngo



This is the wonderful T-80 Soviet Tank produced by MiniArt. It can be built into a beautiful model straight from the box and from the outset this is what I intended to do, with the exception of a few minor adjustments here and there. The model is moulded in light grey plastic with a level of detail that's truly outstanding. The tank comes on just four sprues, although two of these are duplicated twice for the running gear and four times for the tracks. There is also a clear sprue that carries the periscopes and headlight lens. Also included in the box are a set of five soviet figures that appear to be having a field briefing. I must say that I do really like the look of the MiniArt figures and cannot recommend them enough. Although I did choose to omit them on this particular vignette. So that's a run down of what you get in the box, let's get building.

THE BUILD

The construction starts off with the lower hull which comes as a one-piece tub and to this the swing arms and wheels were added along with the towing hooks. Once the glue had set fully on these parts the upper hull could be attached. Again this comes in one piece with only the driver's hatch, gearbox cover and engine-vents to be added. If this were not an out of the box review I would have replaced these with wire mesh. The final items to be added were the drive sprockets, turret ring and exhaust, which could benefit from some texturing and the end's of the tail pipes drilling out.

At this point I skipped a stage and fitted the tracks, these come as individual links and are some of the best I've seen, I would even stick my neck out and say that they are on a par with Dragon's Magic-Tracks. The only thing with these tracks is that great care must be taken when removing them from the sprue, as they are so delicate and thin they can easily be snapped in two. (You have been warned). Following the fitting of the tracks I moved on to attaching the track guards. These are fine but a little on the thick side so I filed them to scale thickness, I also decided to inflict a little battle damage to the right-hand side one. I wanted to portray it as if it had been damaged at the rear end and had been interfering with the tracks, so the crew had decided to cut the troublesome part off. This would also help me in the weathering stages later on. Again on the left-hand track guard I wanted to do something

different, but this time with the stowage boxes, instead of having them both looking pristine, I decided to model one with the lid missing. This was easily achieved by making a new one out of plasticard using the original as a template. With the majority of the hull complete I moved onto the turret, and construction here is very straightforward, making this kit great for the beginners and experienced modellers alike. Assembly starts with the gun before being installed into the turret itself followed by the commander's and gunner's hatches. This was then finished off by adding the various grab rails and handles. Now that the assembly stage was complete I added some mud before I could move onto the painting stage. This was done by mixing some baking soda with Mig Productions Acrylic Resin. Then this was applied around the running gear and the lower parts of the tank. The tank was then set aside to dry for twenty four hours. As you can see by this very brief section on the build, the model was very easy to build with no problems at all, now it's not often one can say that!

PAINTING

The first thing I did was to give the entire model a couple of coats of Tamiya Black Green. Making sure that it reached into all the nooks and crannies and in such places as under the track guards and also under the turret. This colour would act as the shadow colour later on and once this had dried all panel areas received a misting of Tamiya Olive Drab. This process was repeated a couple more times and each time a few drops of Tamiya Dark Yellow were added into the colour cup of my airbrush, not forgetting to add the equivalent amount of thinners each time to stop the paint mix from thickening due to the extra paint being added. Once I was happy with the result, the whole thing was then dried off with a hairdryer. I did this to speed up the drying time, so that I could move onto the weathering stage quicker. The next thing I did was to take some artist's oil paints of various colours and made pretty dot patterns on one panel at a time. Then I took a moist flat brush and drew the oil paints downwards. This was done until all the colours had blended into each other. Now depending on what colours are used each panel could end up with a slightly different shade to the one next to it, which can be quite pleasing to the eye. This was then followed by a pin wash to pick out all the fine detail, such as

LAST

Glenn Bowen takes a rest from complex builds and gets stuck into MiniArt's T-80 out of the box.



OF THE LINE

“The model is moulded in light grey plastic with a level of detail that’s truly outstanding.”





Without any extra detailing the MiniArt T-80 builds into an excellent model.



As can be seen in this photo, the model has been built from the box. The only exception being the left hand fender stowage bin that the author rebuilt from plastic card to display it with the lid open.

◀ rivets and panel lines. The chips and scratches were added next and these were achieved by using various strengths of Burnt Umber oil paint. For the deeper scratches I chose to use a mix of Humbrol Chocolate Brown and Matt Black.

Next came the tracks and for these I used Vallejo's Model Color Panzer Aces, Track Primer.

Both tracks were given a solid coat of this colour, followed by a dusting of MIG's rust coloured pigments, lastly the high points of the links and guide horns were then finished off by rubbing with graphite pencil dust to simulate where they have become polished from constant rubbing and contact with the ground. I used German Grey to pick out the rubber on the wheels as I think it gives a better scale appearance than just using pure black. Once this was done I moved onto the exhaust system. I must be honest I cannot for the life of me remember what colours I used for this. All I

can say is that I used every sort of rust colour out there on the market, from paints to pigments. The whole of the lower part of the tank was treated to a good dusting from more Mig Productions earth coloured pigments. Finally I added oil streaks around the wheels and parts of the hull using a mix of Humbrol Matt Black and Clear Cote. With this done the tank was finished and set aside to dry. Now it was time to sort some kind of scene out for it.

THE BASE

I had a good idea of what sort of scene I wanted for this tank right from the start.

I wished to portray the vehicle passing through a cornfield during the Soviet harvest time. Something nice and simple, the only things to make would be the corn stacks. For these I referred back to an old article featured in Military Modelling by Stan Catchpole (great stuff). It involved taking an

old decorating brush and cutting it down to size. This was then bundled together and tied with fuse wire instead of string; this was then followed by inserting a cocktail stick up through the middle, which would double up as a handle and an anchor to attach it to the base once completed. The corn heads were produced by first dipping the tip of the bundle into super glue, then into some fine sand. With these made and out of the way I could concentrate on the rest of the base. This was done by simply gluing a piece of polystyrene to the base, followed by attaching plastic card for the surrounds, Polyfiller was then added and fine sand to make up the ground work.

Once this had dried the whole thing got a good soaking with PVA. Next I applied static grass and some of the left over decorator's brush used for the corn stacks. The whole thing was then airbrushed with various Tamiya earth colours.



The opened stowage bin has now been filled with a couple of items from the spares box, including one of Tamiya's excellent jerry cans.



Before painting commenced the author added some texture to the lower hull and running gear, which would help simulate dried mud during the painting stage. Mig Productions Acrylic Resin and baking soda were mixed together to form this texture.

Oh sorry, I almost forgot, the figure came from the Tristar Russian Tank Crew set (35012) and was built straight out of the box.

CONCLUSION

I must say that I really did enjoy doing this little tankette. It's nice to get away and do something quick for a change instead of having loads of etch here there and everywhere. So for that reason I can't recommend it enough. I must say thank you to the Editor for letting me build this kit. As I've just said this kit is fine straight OOTB but if you wish to take it that little bit further with the addition of etch brass and metal barrels this would surely make an outstanding model. ■



The T-80 has now received its basic camouflage colour. The author used an undercoat of Tamiya Black Green XF-27 followed by misting on Olive Drab lightened with Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60.



The Hull has now received a filter of various oil paints thinned and blended to add visual interest and tonal changes to the monotone green. Note the difference compared to the turret which has yet to be weathered.

Modelspec

MiniArt T-80 Soviet Light Tank

Kit No 35038

Paints used

Tamiya

XF-27 Black Green, XF-62 Olive Drab, XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-52 Flat Earth, XF-57 Buff.

Model colours

Track Primer.

Winsor & Newton oil paints

Sap Green, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Flake White, Prussian Blue.

MIG Pigments

Light Rust, Dark Rust, Earth.

✓ Fantastic subject.

✗ NONE!

Available from

Available from all good model shops Worldwide
Distributed in the UK by Creative Models

Rating ●●●●●●●●



The scratches and chips were completed using Humbrol's Matt Black and Chocolate Brown mixed in various amounts to simulate older and newer damage.



The addition of a 'captured' jerry can and oil can give that much needed 'splash of colour'. Note that just as much effort has gone into painting these items as has gone into painting the actual vehicle.



The commander figure came from the Tristar range as the figures included in the kit are designed to be involved in a briefing beside the tank.



The tracks were painted and weathered using Vallejo Panzer Ace's Track Primer, followed by earth coloured pigments and finally graphite was rubbed onto the areas of wear to represent polished steel.

Only about 120 T-80s were produced in total before production was stopped and the reconnaissance role was turned over to armoured cars.



D-DAY “LOST IN HELL”

José Brito describes
the idea and methods
used to create this
Normandy vignette.





The D-Day and the Normandy Campaign is one of my favourite periods in military history. In June 2004 I travelled to Normandy for the 60th D-Day Anniversary, I had the opportunity, not only to visit places like Omaha beach and Saint-Mere-Eglise but also the opportunity to meet veterans that fought in WWII and in particular the D-Day and Normandy Campaign. One of those heroes was Forrest Guth from 'E' Company, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division, made famous by the TV series "Band of Brothers". I had a long conversation with him and took some pictures. I bought his book and he even gave me an autograph.

He told me that the drop was very hard and he and his comrades were all scattered over the drop zones. Forrest Guth jumped with a camera and had the opportunity to take some pictures from the early hours of the air invasion. Most of those pictures are in his book. The pictures are very interesting and cover several situations, some are with civilians, others are about German and Allied casualties and the remainder are of other paratroopers from Easy Company.

CONSTRUCTION

My idea for this project was to represent, in a small scene, the stress of war. I wanted to represent two paratroopers near an abandoned German flak gun, a tree and a bridge section over a river.

For the figures I used the excellent Nemrod resin figures: US Pathfinder (N35042 and N35043). They are just great and the detail is awesome. The poses are very natural and they portrayed the stressed look I was after.

For the flak I used the 20mm German Flakvierling 38 from Tamiya. A good kit with a very straightforward construction. I built it 'out of the box'. This kit is an old

one from Tamiya, but even 'out of the box' turns into a fine piece.

The bridge was made from balsa and for the tree I used a dried root from my grandmother's backyard. To make the bridge I used some photos I had found on the internet as my main reference source, and constructed it from balsa wood, which is easy to work with.

PAINTING

The Tamiya Flak was primed with Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black. I like to use this colour as a primer because it acts like a pre-shade for the final colour. Once dry I apply a very diluted coat of Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow. This colour was applied in several diluted layers to let the black pre-shading show through.

The barrels were painted in a very dark Prussian blue, which I mixed from Vallejo 899 Dark Prussian Blue with Vallejo 950 Black. In my opinion, guns and barrels painted in pure black look toy like and unrealistic. The bridge was painted in several acrylic brown tones from Vallejo. I used several tones to add interest and represent the various sources of the wood used in its construction.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Once the paint had been allowed to dry fully on the Flak, I applied some chips and scratches to represent a very used piece of artillery. For that, I used two colours from Vallejo, 987 Medium Grey and 822 SS Camo Black Brown. The last colour being used only in the deepest and oldest scratches. Once the scratches had dried I applied a very diluted wash of Winsor & Newton 35 Raw Umber over the entire model, paying special attention to the recessed areas. To finish the weathering process I applied some Mig Pigments P028 Europe Dust diluted with water around areas such as the seats and floor panels. I also added some kill ►



Nemrod figures are available from Historex Agents and Tamiya products are available Worldwide from all good model shops.



The basic diorama construction is now complete. Oasis foam from a Florist's shop was used to build up the river bank, balsa wood was used to form the bridge and the tree is actually a root from a garden.

marks to add some interest. The barrels received a light dry brush with metal colours and a rub over with some soft pencil graphite.

I applied some streaks to the vertical surfaces using random dots of neat Winsor & Newton Raw Umber and then with a flat brush pre-dampened with thinner dragged the spots down in a vertical motion.

The bridge received several washes of Winsor & Newton Raw Umber and some dry brushing with Mig pigments diluted with water. The parts of the bridge in contact with the water received washes in green tones to represent a build up of moss and algae due to the tidal variations in the river.

THE BASE

As usual, my bases are compact and with height. The height adds interest and a dramatic look to the scene.

For the base I used a wood

square with balsa wood for the surrounds. The balsa parts and base are glued together with PVA glue. The interior is filled with Oasis foam available from florist's stores. It's easy to find, easy to cut and lightweight. With Oasis foam I can shape the terrain to the form I

“For the figures I used the excellent Nemrod resin figures... They are just great and the detail is awesome.”

want. If I'm not happy with the final results I can simply and cheaply repeat the process.

As usual, I painted all the wood parts in flat black, the top of the foam was then covered with Aquaplast from Robbialac. Aquaplast is a pre-made filler used in civil construction and it's water based. It dries quickly, it's easy to use and is a good base for the application of Vallejo Piedra



The Tamiya Flak is a fine kit and even built out of the box still looks good considering its age. Note the vertical stains and streaks applied with diluted oil paints.

Pómez. This is a paste of pumice stone and acrylic resin for rough textures. When dry it's really rough and hard. This product can also be mixed with fine sand or small stones, roots, grass,... all kind of materials for a realistic ground representation.

In my opinion a very convincing tree in 1:35. The root was left to dry fully before I airbrushed several layers of matt varnish to seal the surface. I let it dry for several hours between the applications. Normally I apply four layers. To fix the tree to the terrain I just opened a hole in the oasis foam and filled it with PVA glue. I then pushed the root into the hole and left it to dry. Once dry I applied some more Vallejo Piedra Pómez around the tree base to blend it in.

The stone came from the street where I live. The bushes were made with foam covered with synthetic leaves once again from the Noch range. I normally add different colours of leaves to add a more convincing and natural look.

Once everything had dried fully, I felt the unpainted grass and earth looked unrealistic, so decided to airbrush on some Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown as a primer and then a coat of Tamiya XF-59 Desert

The vegetation was made using Noch products. The grass was applied with white glue in small clumps. A very time consuming process, but necessary for that final convincing look. Using several kinds and sizes of vegetation adds more interest to the scene.

PLANTING TREES

The tree is a dried root and came from my grandmother's backyard.



Airbrushing from buff to dark green on the area representing the water will create the illusion of depth. Vallejo's 26230 Still Water was squeezed from the bottle, this clear resin product is perfect for recreating water effects such as this.



The Still Water from Vallejo takes about 24 hours to dry fully to this very convincing effect.



The two Nemrod U.S. Pathfinder figures were first base coated in Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow.



To get the correct shades for the uniforms, the author relied heavily on the photos he took during a visit to Normandy for the 60th D-Day anniversary where he was able to get some great reference shots of the U.S. Para troop re-enactors.

Yellow. Followed by a wash of Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 35 Raw Umber, and once dry I applied a dry brushed mix of Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow with Tamiya XF-2 Flat White. The grass received a much diluted coat of Tamiya XF-57 Buff to cut the artificial green look.

The water was made with Vallejo 26230 Still Water. Before I applied the Vallejo water I airbrushed some green tones on to the bottom of the river. The idea was to help give some depth to the water. The Vallejo Still Water is a resin product and can be poured in 3mm layers and takes about 24 hours to dry. The final effect is very convincing and natural. It was the first time I had used the Vallejo product and I must say I was a little apprehensive. Anyway the water is one of the most difficult elements to reproduce and in the end I was happy with the Vallejo product and with the results produced.

The flowers are another product available from florist's stores and is called 'Brum-brum' (not sure of an English equivalent, Ed). It looks like dried roots and must be glued on one at a time. Once in place they were picked out using various coloured acrylic paints.

With the base complete, it was time to start experimenting with the final position of all the elements. I had an idea in my mind and thankfully it was not difficult to transfer my idea to reality. The figures and bridge were to be the central elements with the Flak38 and tree forming the backdrop.

FIGURES

The human factor adds scale and interest to a scene as well as a historical and geographical background.

The figures used in the diorama came from the excellent Nemrod range. I used two of their US Pathfinder (N35042 and N35043) figures - I think they are just great. Good pose and good overall look with great recessed and raised details. The construction was straightforward with only some minor clean up of the casting plugs needed before assembly.

As usual I used oils for the flesh parts and acrylics for the clothing, accessories and details. The oils I normally use are from the Winsor & Newton range and the acrylics are from the Vallejo range. Oils take a long time to dry fully, but this allows me plenty of time to blend all the shades and highlights in the flesh areas. I have tried to paint the flesh areas using acrylics, but I am more familiarised with oils. The oils used in the flesh areas were Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 20 Flesh Tint, 23 Indian Red, 29 Naples Yellow Hue, 35 Raw Umber and 40 Titanium White.

Before adding the oils I first primed the figures using Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow. I applied this colour as a primer on the main body and the flesh areas. Once dry I could start painting the uniforms and flesh areas. To get the correct shades I relied heavily on the photos I took of several Paratroop re-enactors when I visited Normandy for the



The heads were first primed with Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow before using Winsor & Newton oil paint to add the details, highlights and shadows.

Before the figure painting started the author made some chromatic studies with Vallejo Acrylics. The colours can vary a lot from when in the bottle to on a surface and dry.



The author printed off the reference photos taken at the D-Day anniversary and matched the uniform colours to paints from the Vallejo Model Color range.



Once the head, hands and weapon had been attached, the boots and trousers received a heavily diluted layer of Tamiya XF-57 Buff to give them a used and dusty look. Once dry Mig Productions' pigments were used to enhance this effect even further.



Weathering on the Flak gun has been kept to a minimum. The author has only added wear to the foot boards and cruciform base plate.



Here we can see to good effect how well the 'pin washes' work when accentuating the rivet detail on the gun shields.

◀ 60th D-Day Anniversary. Once the painting was complete I applied a very diluted layer of Tamiya XF-57 Buff onto the pants and boots... to give them a used and dusty look. Once dry I also applied some dry MIG pigments to enhance the dusty look.

The finished figures looked great and the poses were very natural, they even look stressed and nervous.

COMPOSITION

Now it's time to put all the elements together. I try to avoid dead spots in my scenes and in

this case the river/bridge and the figures are in the centre of the action. The flak and the tree are in the background and they fill all the spots. The vegetation helped to fill the scene. I tried to add interest from every angle. I think a diorama must have interest from every angle and in this case if a viewer takes a look at ground level you will see all the elements working together.

FINAL APPROACH AND CONCLUSION

This project was very enjoyable and I tried some new techniques. I think it's the second time I have

used water in a diorama and is certainly the first time I have built a bridge or a section of a bridge. In the end I was very happy with the final result and I can now add a work on one of the most important moments in history to my collection of dioramas. ■

Nemrod have captured the look of the U.S Paratroop's uniforms and equipment perfectly.



Adding height and making sure the lines of the diorama are not perpendicular to the edges of the base adds drama and visual interest.

Modelspec

20MM GERMAN FLAKVIERLING 38 KIT NO. 35091

Items used

1:35 Nemrod, US Pathfinder, Kit No. N35042 and N35043
1:35 Tamiya, 20mm German Flakvierling 38, kit No. 35091

Materials & paints used

Balsa wood, Wood glue, Plastic glue, Contact glue, Wood base, Injected plastic, Railway model making materials (synthetic grass) Vallejo acrylics
822 SS Camo Black Brown, 987 Medium Grey, 951 White, 950 Black, 889 US Olive Drab, 893 US Dark Green, 873 US Field Drab, 871 Leather Brown, 058 Matt Varnish
Vallejo Piedra Pómez
Vallejo 26230 Still Water
Tamiya acrylics
Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow, Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black, Tamiya XF-2 Flat White, Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown, Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green, Tamiya XF-57 Buff
Pigments
MIG P027 Light Dust, MIG P029 Brick Dust
Oil colours
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 9 Cadmium Yellow Hue
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 20 Flesh Tint
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 23 Indian Red
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 29 Naples Yellow Hue
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 35 Raw Umber
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 40 Titanium White
Aguaplast - Robbialac

References

Sainte - Mere - Eglise, Pictures of D-Day, D-Day Publishing, Michel de Trez, ISBN 2-9600176-9-2
No. 1 WWII Paratroopers Portrait Series, The Way We Were, The Band of Brothers, 'E' Company, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division, CPL. Forrest Guth, D-Day Publishing, Michel de Trez.
ARMES - Militaria Magazine, Hors Serie N.º 54 - Campagne sur la Normandie No 3, Yves Buffetaut, Spearheading D-Day, American Special Units in Normandy, Histoire & Collections, Jonathan Gawne, ISBN 2 908 182 793

✓ The good detail of the figures and the Tamiya Flak is still a good kit.

✗ Nothing I can remember.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.



The Editor takes a peek in the box of Tristar's all new Sturmpanzer IV Brummbar.

GRIZZLY BEAR

An up to date Early and Mid Production Brummbar have been long overdue to replace Tamiya's venerable but ancient version. With both Dragon and Tristar announcing both Early and Mid versions, we really are going to be spoiled this summer. The first one we have received is the early version from Tristar and I must say my initial impressions on opening the box were very, very good.

What you get are 16 sprues containing the majority of the parts including the individual track links, three small etched brass frets are included for the finer items. Clear parts for the gunner's sight and driver's visor are also included. Lastly two sets of ultra-thin die-cut black plastic card are provided to make the schurtzen. The use of black card is a really clever touch, as it prevents the part from remaining translucent after painting as would happen with the equivalent thickness white card.

The lower hull comes as a single piece tub, whereas the upper hull and superstructure are supplied as individual plates and panels. The front plate and side plates of the superstructure are assembled using the interlocking joints as on

the real thing, I did dry fit these parts and they fitted perfectly.

A partial interior is included complete with floor plates and a fully detailed gun and cradle assembly, which is so nice it's a shame to have to enclose it within the superstructure.

Subtle cast textures, weld seams and torch cut effects are all evident throughout the parts.

The suspension components have all been dealt with the same care and attention as the rest of the kit, Tristar have even included four loaded and eight unloaded leaf springs giving the modeller the option of displaying the vehicle with a nose heavy stance or not. As a side line Tristar have even sent out a news letter explaining why they have included this option. It is a sad state of affairs when the manufacturers have to constantly justify why and how they have produced their kits all because some very opinionated and sometimes misinformed 'modellers' get more pleasure from publicly condemning every new release on the internet than actually building anything!

The wheels come with separate hubcaps and tyres, which incidentally include the Continental logo on both the sidewalls of the main tyres and on

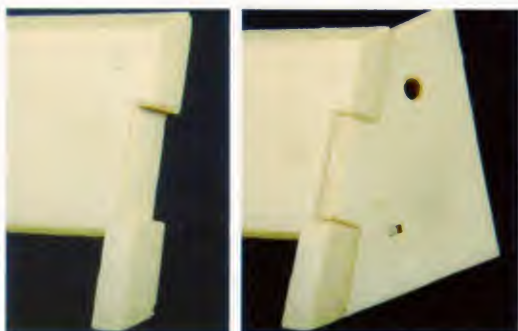
the rubber rimmed return-rollers.

Injection plastic individual link tracks are supplied that represent mid production 40cm tracks with hollow guide horns. These links have been designed to 'click' together without the aid of glue. I personally would flow some liquid cement between each link for extra security once they have been assembled and shaped around the running gear. I don't think they would stay in one piece during painting and weathering if left unglued.

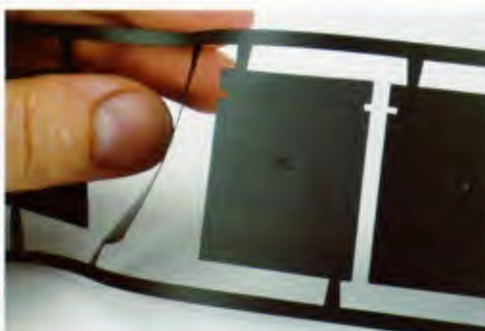
Waterslide decals are included for four vehicles, all are from Sturmpanzer Abt. 216, Kursk 1943, the decals are pretty limited and consist of only three Balkenkreuz and four sets of white outlined numbers. With regard to the painting and marking options, no mention is made of the actual colours depicted on these schemes.

This minor detail is the only negative point I could see with the entire kit. This really is one of those 'must build' models. Wholeheartedly recommended. ■

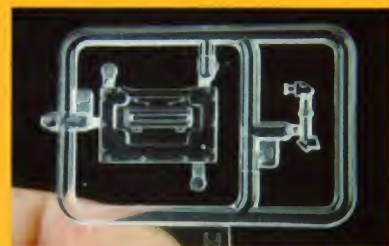
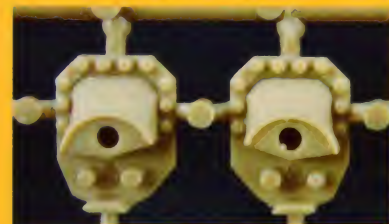
I must say a big thank you to Model Wholesale UK for supplying the review sample.



The panels that make up the superstructure interlock in the same manner as on the real vehicle. The fit is perfect.



The schurtzen panels have been produced from ultra thin plastic card.





MOANING MINNIE

Darren Thompson takes a look at Lion Roar's impressive multi-media 'Nebelwerfer' rocket launcher.

For quite a while now Lion Roar have been making etched metal detail sets and turned brass gun barrels for all the major manufacturers' kits and whose quality and accuracy are right up there with the market leaders, so it was a nice surprise to hear that they were to launch their own line of complete kits. I was

also pleased to learn that the first kits would be a long overlooked subject, the German 'Nebelwerfer' rocket launchers.

As expected, Lion Roar have used their full knowledge of etched and turned brass to detail this kit to the max.

The five rocket launcher tubes are turned in brass, with all the correct steps and notches

present, and the walls of the tubes also have the ventilation holes pre-drilled.

The internal splines have to be added from etched brass, quite a tricky operation, but the only way to get a totally realistic effect.

The tubes are in turn held in place by fitting them through two large etched

plates, with the need to keep all the parts perfectly aligned whilst fixing in place.

Both copper wire and plastic rod are supplied to replicate all the plumbing, a very distinctive feature of this weapon, with more brass and also injection moulded plastic for all the tiny fittings.

The rest of the cradle and trailer are made predominantly from plastic, which is also of the highest quality, with more brass to detail it.

Finally, the wheels are cast in resin and as with the resin items from their earlier kits the quality of the casting is faultless. The only slight criticism I have is that the tyres do appear to be a little wide and a little too square, but it really doesn't detract from what is an otherwise excellent multi-media kit.

Overall this kit comes highly recommended, but only for experienced modellers, certainly not one for the beginner! ■

Lion Roar are available in the UK from www.armour-models.co.uk





"HANS, I THINK THEY WANT IT BACK!"

EASTERN FRONT 1945

Matt Wellhouser explains how he built this stunning diorama based around Trumpeter's 1:16th scale T-34/85.





The author made a cardboard mock-up of the building. This helped him to work out the dimension of the overall scene.

A few years ago Trumpeter Models released the huge 1:16 scale T-34 series of armour kits. The model featured different versions and a full interior to boot. As many have seen in Tamiya Model Magazine International (Issue 117) the model is impressive. As a gift for my 50th birthday, my wife consulted with my modelling buddies to find out that this kit would be the perfect birthday present. My friends insisted that the model was not that big. Ha!

I am a great fan of armour models. The caveat is that the armour model has to have figures to give it life and scale. I spent quite a bit of time debating if this model was to be displayed as a captured Russian tank or maybe wrecked, maybe abandoned. I had several figures in mind that would be appropriate for these scenarios. One issue was scale - many 1:16 scale figures are not 1:16 scale. Manufacturers are liberal with the term 1:16 and 120mm in the figure industry. 120mm scale figures are too big. I had a conversation with John Rosengrant on this very topic - he has sculpted several true 1:16 scale figures for S&T Products

- including the ones used in this diorama. They scale to about 115mm. After some measurements, I soon confirmed the rumour, the tank is 1:16 scale.

THE STORY GOES...

I finally decided on two S&T German figures that would be 'inspecting' an abandoned T-34/85. The story line is such that the tank had a mechanical breakdown, and in the midst of the German army approaching, the Russians left the tank in a farmyard. At the point of two troopers checking the tank, they spot some Russian soldiers advancing toward their position. Oh, and it's cold, muddy and nasty outside.

Once the story was somewhat defined, it was time to plan the build and layout, I began assembly with the lower hull. This is time consuming because the T-34 has a full interior. Not knowing yet how the exact layout was going to end up, I built the model adding details such as electrical lines, airlines and weathering. Nothing too spectacular, but with this large scale I made sure I cleaned all mould lines and flash from each part. Careful painting is important.



Although the size of the diorama cannot be fully realised from this image, the base is actually 21"x17". (53cm x 43cm). When working in this scale it's easy to get carried away and end up with a huge base and a very large diorama!



The final design chosen for the building was actually an amalgamation of features from several different buildings the author had studied from pictures in reference books on Russia and Eastern Europe.

I used pigments and artist oil washes to weather the interior.

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE FARM

Once the hull was 90% complete, I used cardboard strips to define a layout for the farmyard base. As I have explained in previous articles, when laying this out, I am particular about any empty spaces, viewing angles and figure placement. I laid everything out on a 1" Styrofoam base, and marked positions with a permanent marker. For the 'false front' end of the farmhouse, I made cardboard mock-ups of the structure and moved the mock-up around the base to find the best spot. This was particularly difficult because I had to make a scale ruler in order to build a 1:16 scale building. I then used my scale rule to figure out exterior building dimensions.

I studied pictures in several books to get ideas on farm buildings in eastern Prussia, Russia, Poland and other areas. As I decided to build a plaster house, I incorporated architectural elements from several different buildings that I thought would add interest to the scene. I wanted to have a thatched roof and some wooden shutters.

While building the T-34, I also continued work on the farmhouse. I would work on each component while I was waiting for glue and paint to dry. This also broke up the monotony of building one thing for such a long time.

FRAMING IT

The frame for the base was constructed out of baseboard moulding from the lumberyard. I added a plywood bottom with the Styrofoam base glued on top. The 'frame' was painted black with spray cans then topped with clear polyurethane. That was left to dry for about two weeks so the paint cured hard and could be safely

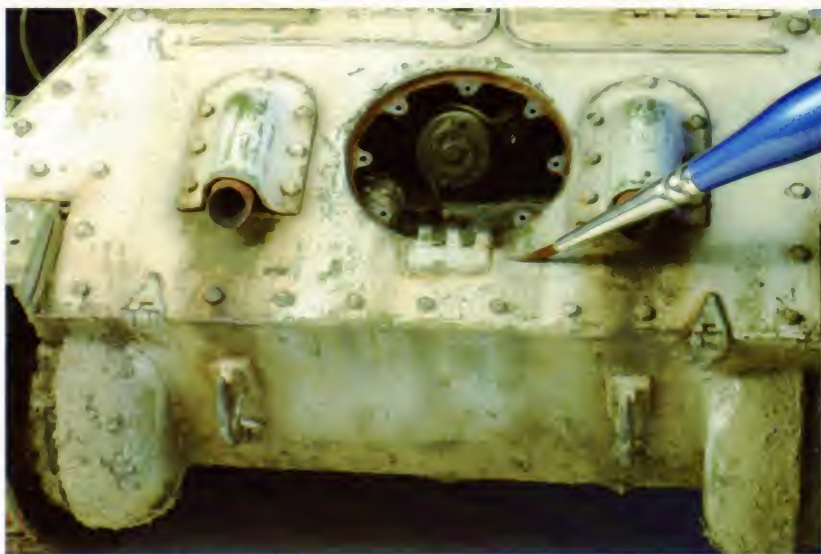
masked off. This turned out to be good planning, because of the groundwork that was going to be applied. The finished base is 17" x 21" in size. It's a whopper.

TANK FACTORY 183

Back to the T-34, the turret was constructed next, with A&B putty used to reproduce the rough weld seam at the waist of the turret. I added some electrical wiring inside, and painted all the separate parts. As it turns out, most of the wiring cannot be seen in the finished model. Oh well... Separate parts such as the ammo, radios, and various control boxes were painted separately then added to the turret. I used an Armo metal aftermarket barrel for the huge 85mm gun. This was much better shaped and slid right into the breech. Overall the fit and construction of the T-34 was very good.

THE WHITEWASH

Wanting to depict a weathered white wash finish, I found an article in issue No.10 of MMI. Phil Stutcinkas's Euro Militaire, prize winning Panzer IV with its worn winter finish was the inspiration. Phil used a technique of first painting the model in the base colour, then spraying the model with hairspray. Then the white finish was applied and scrubbed off with an old brush. This is the same technique I used for my white wash finish. I deviated a little and borrowed Mike Bishop's (Monroe Perdu) technique of using hair gel instead of hair spray. The gel was painted on areas that would wear off and show the base colour (Russian Green) underneath. I sealed the base colour with Model Master metalizer sealer - which is essentially a clear lacquer based finish. Then when dry, I added the hair gel. This dried in about half an hour, then Model Master



Dark grey pigments are being used to add subtle weathering streaks from the base of the rear engine access opening. Note also the ultra-realistic oily residue leaking from the base of the left hand exhaust housing.



Even though little of the engine and transmission are visible on the finished model, the author still added extra detailing in the form of wiring and pipe-work. Note also the realistic grimy weathering.

acrylic Flat White was sprayed on the model. I did not give it a real heavy coat. Assuming this is field applied, I tried to spray it in the same manner that a soldier in the field would. Then when done, I used warm water and an old brush to scrub off the white in areas that had hair gel. Presto! I had a really ugly looking model. My first reaction was to start over, but I convinced myself to stick with it.

WASHES AND WEATHERING

I then started using artist tube oils (Raw Umber, Burnt Umber and Sepia) to apply very local pin washes and staining. By diluting the amount of thinners, the intensity of the wash was controlled. Because of the sheer size of the model, this was done repeatedly over a three to four week period. I also applied my homemade pigments, plus some black pigment to further define areas. I used paintbrushes, Q-tips and artist stumps (cardboard pencil) to apply the weathering. Ground up pencil graphite was

applied via a fingertip to simulate worn metal edges.

As construction progressed, a mix of pigments and mud was applied to further weather the tank. A liberal mix of the homemade mud was applied to the hull of the tank before the road wheels were attached. Each road wheel has a separate tyre, these were attached to each wheel and then mud and washes of oil paints were applied.

TRACKS

The tracks are individual links made of plastic. They are flexible and quite durable. I left off the front idler on each side of the tank, so I could adjust the length of each track run. Each track was primed with Floquil, Railroad Tie Brown. When dry I used a combination of my pigment mix and artist oils smeared all over the track. A rag dampened with mineral spirits was used to wipe off the excess. I also used an earth coloured and dark grey pigment on selected links. Pencil graphite

was used to simulate fresh wear on the links. Homemade rust was made from ground up pastel chalk and rubbing alcohol. This was applied in a few areas on the track run. The alcohol evaporated very fast, leaving a nice rust effect in the nooks and crannies.

As construction progressed, I added the wet mud to the track as I was applying the mud to the base. This insured that the mud on the track matched the colour of the groundwork.

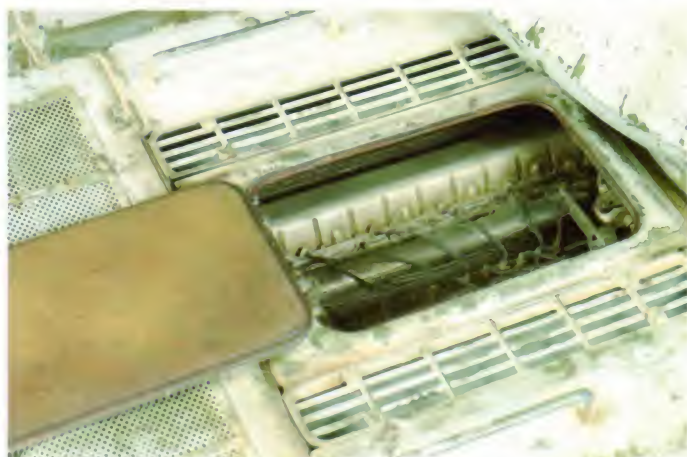
THE ENEMY

As construction progressed with the vehicle, I started work on the two figures. Both are from the S&T line. One figure is perched on the

turret, the other on the rear hull.

I chose the SS Panzer Grenadier (16016) and the Wehrmacht Unteroffizier (16028). After spending some time on layout, I decided that the Wehrmacht figure would be on the turret, and the other on the hull. Fortunately, the figures fit well on the tank, and no major modifications would be needed. The Panzer Grenadier needed some surgery to have one finger pointing instead of two- it just looked better that way.

The uniforms were appropriate for the timeline, and weather. The Wehrmacht dude needed a new belt buckle, as I wanted both to be SS soldiers. A little work with Tamiya two part putty solved that issue. ▶



The Trumpeter T-34 features a complete interior including a superbly detailed engine. Unfortunately not much remains visible on the finished model.



Dark grey weathering powder is being used to accentuate the hinge detail on the access hatch.

As the engine hatches are to be displayed opened on the finished model, the same degree of care was needed when weathering the insides.



The individual link plastic tracks were first primed with Floquil Railroad Tie Brown. The weathering was created using a mix of oil paints a weathering pigments.



◀ Darned if you can see it though!

As painting was straight forward, painting white on figures is daunting for many modellers. I try to keep techniques simple. That way I can remember them and they speed up the process a bit. For the white trousers, the trousers were base coated with Model Master Flat White. Then a thin coat of Winsor & Newton Titanium White was applied. Mixed into this was a bit of Raw Umber and Sepia to define the shadows. Once dry, I covered the area with a thin coat of Flake White. This evens out the shadows and the overall tone. Then when dry, I used Vallejo Flat White to define the highlights. The mud and dirt stains were completed with Raw Umber and Burnt Umber oils.

Both figures were painted using Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics. I did use artist oils for the faces. A little white wash was applied on the Wehrmacht figures' helmet. I used the same technique on the helmet as I did on the tank.

WORKING ON THE ISBA

I had made a mock-up of the farmhouse from cardboard. This gave me the basic size of the false front of the house. The walls of the house are made from Hydrocal plaster. This is a lightweight plaster

of Paris type product. Woodland Scenics packages Hydrocal in milk carton sized containers.

I made a basic form from 3/16" basswood strips. I assembled the form directly on a piece of 1" Styrofoam. Hot melt glue was used to secure the form to the Styrofoam. Since I needed four pieces for the house, four forms were built (front, sides and foundation). The plaster was mixed in a throwaway container then poured into the form. I used an

painted with acrylic craft paint and weathered with pigments and oil colours. This was probably the easiest part of the build. Nothing precise, just apply paint and muck about till it looks right. We are not building the Sistine Chapel.

The upper woodwork on the house was made by using throwaway wood coffee stirrers. They just happened to be the right size. The upper portion of the front wall has a base made of plastic card. The stirrers were then

alcohol. The intensity of the stain is controlled by the dilution of the ink. I used about 10 drops of ink per 4 ounces of rubbing alcohol. Once dry I also added some stain using diluted Burnt Umber oil colour.

This same mix was used for the remaining wood on the diorama—the fencing, window frames, etc. The wood was stained then cut and fitted to the diorama.

FIDDLING ON THE ROOF

I wanted a thatched roof, as I thought it looked cool. Boy what a nightmare! First up was to find scale material that could pass for a thatched roof. After many hours at the craft store, I realised that inexpensive paint brush bristles may do the trick.

After some experimentation, I found that they glued easily with white glue, and of course the bristles can be painted. I have a bin full of brushes with all sorts of dried paint on them. The first order of business was building a sub roof from plastic card. The underside was covered with scribed wood, and stained with the India Ink wash.

After purchasing 10 brushes, I went to work. I wrapped masking tape around the bristles near the ferrules to keep the cut bristles in some sort of order. Then using

“I added the wet mud to the track as I was applying the mud to the base. This insured that the mud on the track matched the colour of the groundwork.”

old metal straight edge to screed off the excess plaster. In about half an hour, I could remove the walls from the form. Hydrocal is interesting stuff; while it's damp, it carves very easily. Once dry, a little sprinkle with water softens it up enough to carve. I used an engineer's square and ruler to scribe the window opening and detail into the wall. Old dental picks and dull X-acto blades make great carving tools. The walls were

epoxied to the plastic base. The decorative strip on the front of the house was a dollhouse item I found at the craft store. The shutters and window frames were built up using scale strip wood.

To weather the wood, I used a razor saw pulled along each piece to add grain. The 'fuzz' that is left by this process was removed with 80 and 100 grit sand paper. Then each piece was stained with a mix of India Ink and rubbing



The rust used on the tracks and ice cleats mounted on the fenders was made up from ground up pastel chalk and rubbing alcohol.



Compare this photo with the same view on the next page. Just adding a few small items really adds visual interest.



To get the realistic metallic sheen on the tip of the track guide horn the author rubbed pencil graphite on using a finger tip. The worn paint effect was created with the help of 'hair gel'!



A spanner (wrench) and some small bolts and a rag have been placed on the fender. This small detail helps to set the scene and visually convey to the viewer the reason the tank has been captured.



The small patches of thawing snow were made using a mix of baking soda and Microballoons. Microballoons very tiny white beads are designed to help bulk out resin without adding extra weight.



Small items such as this bucket have been placed on the groundwork to add that human touch. Cut up pieces of twine were used to create the dried-up weeds along the fence line.

a sharp utility knife began slicing bristles. As I cut a bunch, I would begin gluing the bristles to the lower sections of the roof. This progressed up each side of the roof until I reached the apex. After the glue has dried, I went back and removed the bristles that were not cooperating and gave the rest a haircut with some scissors. Once done, the roof looked pretty good, albeit ugly. The roof needed some weathering. I used some Tamiya Khaki Drab and Buff to colour the thatch. A little dry-brushing and presto! If I were a rich man!

ARE WE THERE YET?

About this time, I was sick of mud, thatching and glue. Once the building was finished it was placed - actually screwed to the base. I used a small machine screw up through the foundation to hold it on the base.

Mud, mud, mud and more mud. As the thawing of snow occurs, the moisture goes into the ground, and creates mud. I started carving the terrain to add some ruts and mud puddles. I wanted the tank a little lower than the house. This would help give the illusion of weight to

the model. Once the terrain was carved, I mixed a base layer of mud. The colour did not have to be exact. I made a mix of wall spackle, acrylic colour, dirt, small rocks and white glue, this I applied to the entire base. When dry another coat was applied, but with colours close to the desired end result. Because my special mix of pigments and acrylics was limited, the final colour was reserved for the last coat. The final mud layers were a slightly different mix - pigment, white glue, acrylic paint, Future and gel matte medium. This was easier to work and would allow more build up of mud with the desired texture. The matte medium helps give body to the mud. Cut up pieces of jute twine were used for the ratty weeds along the fence.

PUDDLES

After the final coat of mud was made, I started work on the puddles. I used two part Envirotex Lite casting resin. This was coloured with Vallejo English Uniform acrylic paint. The paint was mixed directly into the resin before it was poured. The resin can be poured about 1/8th of an inch

deep at a time. Because three of the puddles were a little deeper, I made two pours of resin. Smaller areas were made by using Future floor finish - it is a clear acrylic floor wax. Future can be diluted and used to simulate damp areas as well. Fresh mud is darker than dried mud. Same goes for dirt. Dirt near a pond's edge is darker than dirt farther away that is dry. Over a several week period, I continually added mud, Future and details

to the base. Next time, it's going to be summer! A small bucket, a shovel, pitchfork, ammo drum and an old tow cable add that human touch. I threw in a fuel tank off the T-34 to give it an abandoned look. Spare track links were constructed for the groundwork as well as on the tank. Since the kit links snap together, I had to make new end connectors from plastic rod as I don't think the real things go together that way. ▶



The puddles were created using Envirotex Lite casting resin mixed with Vallejo Model Color English Uniform acrylic paint.

CRUMMY WEATHER

Since we were stuck in late winter, I decided to add snow patches. The snow was made from the basic mix of baking soda, and microballoons. Microballoons are a very fine glass bead that is used to reinforce wing joints in model R/C aircraft. It is usually mixed with superglue. Microballoons look like fine powdered snow. Since I needed more than your average model, I mixed it with baking soda—about 50/50. In some spots I used straight microballoons.

I used two ways to attach the snow—white glue or Future. The predominate method was mixing with diluted white glue. Future was

used to simulate slush. I added patches of snow, randomly and in predictable areas. Although I live in a climate that never gets snow, I think the results are convincing. Once dry, the snow was tinted with artist's oil colour to simulate the dirty mucky stuff that you all experience.

The T-34 was glued to the base with two part epoxy. First, I glued the tracks to the wheels, just in case. Once the glue had set, I returned to the mud making operation and added mud and slop around the tracks in the appropriate places. The tow cables that droop off of the vehicle were added and sunk into

the mud as needed.

Anticlimactic as it was, the turret was attached and the figures fixed to the tank. As I wanted to see the model done, I was careful to add the figures and turret last—no breaking of important parts while trying to do touch ups!

After a year and a half and many buckets of mud, the T-34 diorama was finished. It was a large project. Many times you read in the modelling press that the project was broken down into smaller projects. That was true, and planning really did help. Matter of fact, making a written list of the sequence allowed me to keep everything straight. As you can

see, certain construction steps had to be done before you could progress with another component.

I was very fortunate to receive a gold medal for my work as well as the people's choice award at the 2008 Southern California Area Historical Miniatures Society show. Now, where the heck am I going to put this?? ■

Modelspec

TRUMPETER 1:16 T-34/85

KIT NO. 00902

Sets used

Armo barrel #16002
S&T Products:
SS Panzer Grenadier 16016 1:16 scale
Wehrmacht Unteroffizier 16028 1:16 scale

Paints used

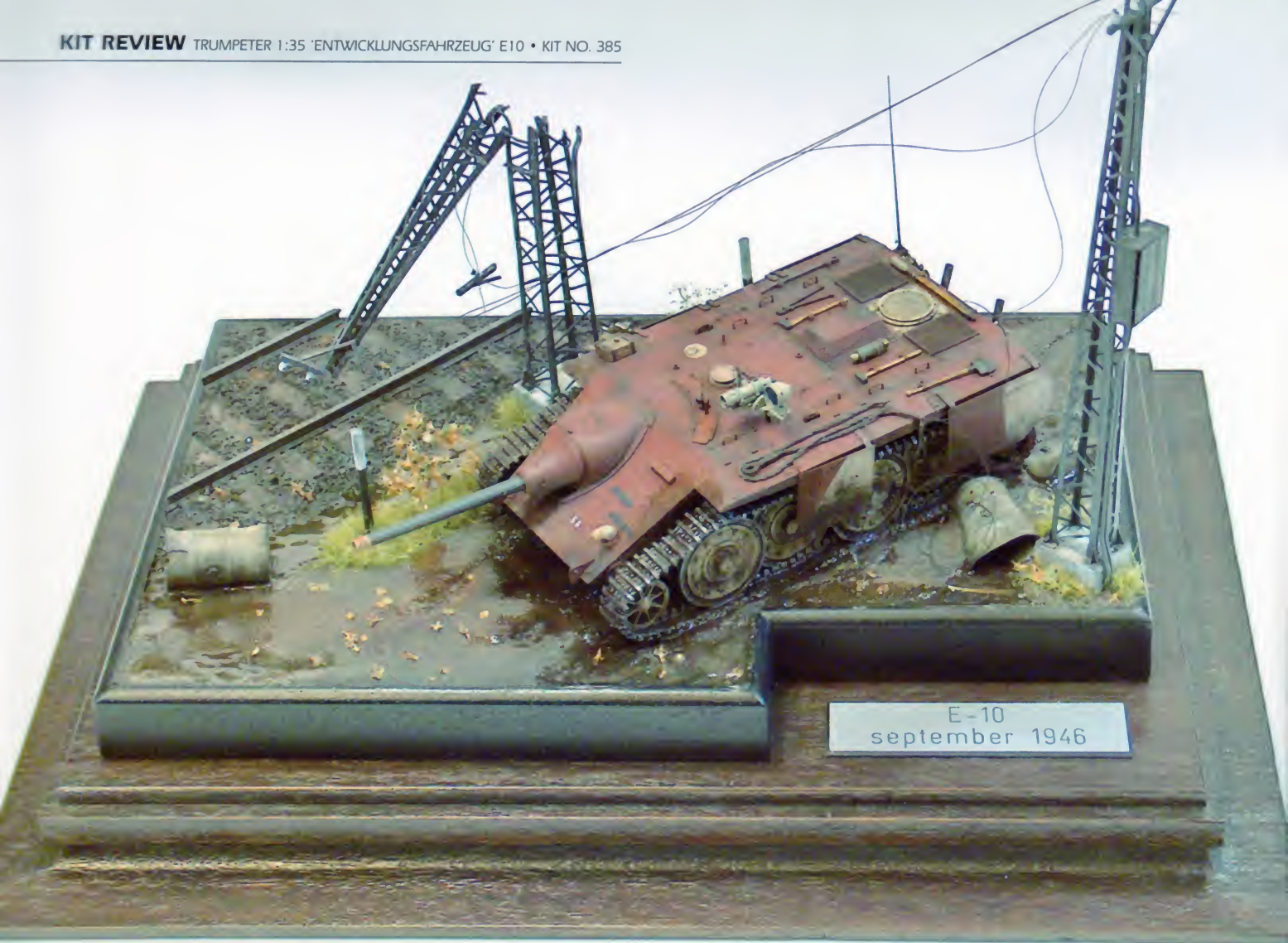
Tamiya Acrylic Paint
Testors Model Master Paint
Vallejo Acrylic Paint
Winsor & Newton Artist Oil Colour
Rembrandt Oil Colour
Blood, sweat and tears

Reference

T-34/85 Medium Tank 1944-94- Osprey Publications
T-34 In Action- Squadron/Signal Publications
Camouflage Uniforms of the Waffen-SS- Schiffer Publishing

Available from

Trumpeter - All good model shops
Armo - www.jadar.com.pl
S&T Products - afvmodeller.com



LAST RESORT

(SEPTEMBER 1946) PART 1

Jan Peters reviews and builds Trumpeter's second Paper Panzer, the E10 in the first part of his extended article.

Paper Panzers are strange things, you either love'em or loathe'em....

Me? I love'em! There is something intriguing about these last ditch vehicles which were thought out in late war Germany. There have been many designs, some of them made it as far as the wooden mock-up stage or even prototypes, but most never got past the drawing board. Some of the more believable and promising designs were of the E-25 and the subject of this article, the E-10. Both were designed as a next generation tank hunter, weighing in at 25 tons (E-25) and 10 tons (E-10) respectively. The E-25 had the

proven 75mm L/70 gun; the E-10 was equipped with the older 75mm L/48 gun.

THE KIT

Trumpeter's kit comes in the now familiar sturdy box, packed with light grey injection moulded styrene. The kit comes with a choice of both 'link and length' tracks as well as rubber band vinyl tracks. As you get a choice of the early and late type of tracks this means there are no less than four complete sets of tracks supplied! The wheels are the same as supplied with the E-25 kit.

To top it all off, a small decal sheet and a full colour painting and

marking guide are provided. These painting and marking instructions are purely hypothetical of course! Which brings us to the fun part of this kit.... As none had ever seen the light of day, the possibilities for painting are without limits, I've seen these models build up in all sorts of guises, and with the wildest of paint schemes, right up to an E-10 in a 'Mondrian style' of artwork, using squares, grids and lines in bright blue, white, red and yellow!

CONSTRUCTION

After I had read a bit about these Paper Panzers, I found out that the hydraulic (?) suspension of the E-10 was to be designed in such a way

that the vehicle could be dropped in a crouched position, much like the modern Swedish S-tank. This was supposedly done to give it a lower silhouette for better ambush concealment, always handy in a defensive war. The model is shown in the crouched position on the side of the kits' box, but strangely enough there is no mention at all about this in the kits' instructions. As I really liked the look of the E-10 in this lowered profile I decided to fiddle around with the suspension components to achieve this look. I first drilled out the location holes in the hull tub, so the swing arms/suspension bogies could rotate freely, and be positioned at will.

When doing this, make sure you fit the idler wheel and drive sprocket first, because these will be the lowest parts of the running gear. I then made a simple jig under the kits' hull, using a small piece of wood, I then put the hull and the jig on a small glass plate, to make sure all the arms were level. I then applied a small amount of glue from the inside to tack them to the hull. After the glue had set, I removed the jig, and applied some more glue to make sure they were firmly attached.

TRACKS TROUBLES

Now it was time to tackle the wheels and tracks. Wheel assembly was straightforward, with just some mould seams to clean up, and a separate hubcap to fit to each wheel. The tracks however were another cup of tea all together. I have never liked using the rubber bands supplied in any kit, so I opted for the single link items. This is where the trouble started, as these were a royal pain in the behind to assemble. The fit was very poor, and the tracks suffered from both mould flash and ejector pin marks. All in all I took the tracks apart several times, and even now they aren't completely to my liking. I later found out that Cromwell Models produce a set of resin replacement track for the E-10, if I had known that earlier I would surely have used these instead!. With this part of the vehicle tackled, and the subassemblies set aside, it was time to move on to the hull top.

HULL ASSEMBLY AND DETAILING

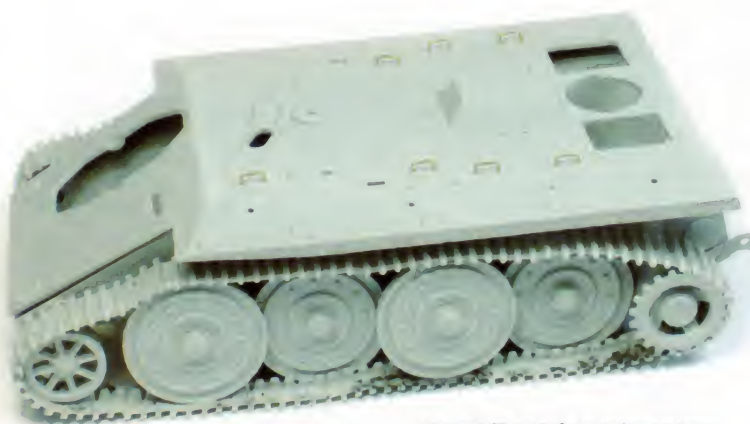
Construction from here on was pretty straightforward, and the fit of parts was rather good. The first thing I did after gluing the top to the hull tub was to replace all the grab handles with brass wire. The kit parts were used as a guide, the locating holes were

drilled out with a 0.5mm drill bit in a pin-vice.. I used a mix of kit parts and items from Tamiya's Panzer IV tool set for the pioneer tools. The IR equipment was taken from the old Tamiya steel wheeled Panther kit, and adapted to fit the E-10. The periscopes and aiming equipment received new guards using scrap pieces of a photo etch fret. The exhausts were scratch built, using a combination of parts from the kit, steel wire and aluminium tubing, made to look like the flame suppressing exhausts as seen on Panther and late Panzer IVs. The schurtzen armour plates are provided in both plastic and photo etch, I opted for the etched ones as these were more to scale. The brackets were soldered on for extra strength, but once in place found the brackets didn't fit properly against the hull and in the end I had to add an extra bend to each to get them to sit correctly.

PAINTING IT ALL

As I have said before, the best thing about these experimental or Paper Panzers is the fact that almost anything goes.... No-one can tell you your paint scheme isn't correct, or your markings are wrong! In fact you can let your imagination run wild, but this also raises a question; how on earth are you going to paint it? Several schemes crossed my mind, each one wilder than the next, but the basis was always the same, primer red. I have always liked the look of a red-primed vehicle, so I really wanted to incorporate it into whatever scheme I would opt for.

As usual painting started with a layer of Tamiya X-18 Semi-Gloss Black, which served as both a primer and pre-shade. I masked two small stripes on the glacis, to leave two black bands to act as false vision ports, as seen I took this idea from pictures of late war Hetzers. ▶



Like the E-25, the E-10 was designed to lower itself for better ambush concealment. The model on the side of the box is shown like this.

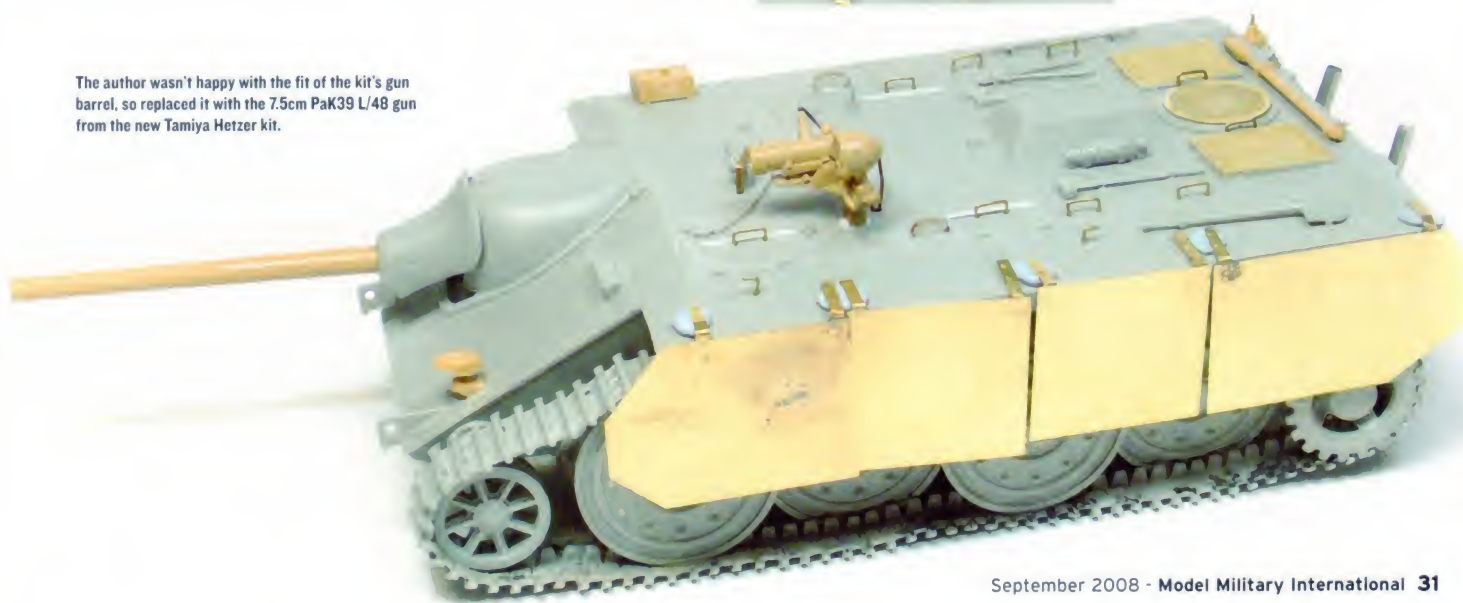


Some of the kit's tools were replaced with items from Tamiya's excellent Panzer IV On Vehicle Equipment set. A new tow cable was fashioned from steel wire.



The infrared night sight was from the Tamiya steel wheeled Panther G. This kit contained no less than three of these sets on the sprues holding the wheels.

The author wasn't happy with the fit of the kit's gun barrel, so replaced it with the 7.5cm PaK39 L/48 gun from the new Tamiya Hetzer kit.





The model was primed using Tamiya Semi-Gloss Black. The black would also act as the pre-shading colour for the following coats of red primer.



The two strips of Tamiya masking tape on the glacis plate will be removed once painting has been completed to reveal two false vision slits. Something often seen on late war Hetzers

PRIMER PROBLEMS

As red is a difficult colour to get good coverage from I sprayed some highlights with Vallejo Model Air White (001), to get a better contrast in the base coat. I then started with Vallejo Model Air Hull Red (039), but this turned out to be much too dark. As I'm colour blind I usually don't like to mix my own colours, but in this case I had to, as there wasn't a 'one bottle' solution available. For this mixture I first took some Vallejo Model Color Hull Red (985) (which is a bit lighter in shade than the Vallejo Air variant) and started mixing in some Red (947), White (001) and Sand Yellow (028) colours until I felt it had the right tone. This mixture was sprayed in such a way to leave subtle colour variations over the hull. I also added some sharp demarcations by holding a piece of paper to mask off certain areas to add further variations. I practiced all these techniques on a scrap model first. I also used this scrap model to try out several different camouflage schemes, including both hard edged and splinter patterns, but none of them really took my fancy.

ADDING CONTRASTS

To break up the monotone finish even further, I picked out several parts of the vehicle in dark yellow, concentrating on parts that would have been manufactured and painted at different factories. All of the wheels were painted in Vallejo Sand (028), the armour plates received some sand coloured hard-edged bands. The ventilator and exhaust fan assembly were picked out in Tamiya Dark Yellow (XF-60) and the IR equipment received a coat of Desert Yellow (XF-59). I later changed the colour of the barrel to Vallejo-air Black-Grey (056) to represent the heat resistant primer used on them, and add more colour variations. The same Black-Grey was also used to pick out the metal parts of the tools, whilst the wooden parts of the tools were primed in sand and finished using oils. To do this I put on some 'Burnt Sienna' and 'Wash Brown' oil colours and left them to dry for about five minutes. After which I ran a stiff brush along the length of the handles to simulate the wood grain.

WEATHERING

With all the basic painting complete, it was time to move on to the weathering stage. I started out with some basic chipping and mapping using the same red primer mixture used for the basecoat. This may sound strange, but as there were darker areas on the model, the lighter shade stands out nicely without being too obvious. I added some fine chips on the corners of panels and on details that stand proud of the surface first. On the brighter red surfaces I used Vallejo-air Black-Grey for the chips. The key is not to overdo this stage, as this vehicle just rolled out of the factory it would not look like it was used for two decades or more... With the basic chipping done, I moved to oil paints to fade the colours and to blend them all together. I used 'Permanent Red Medium' and Naples Yellow/Red from the Rembrandt range, the latter being more like a pinkish buff colour, rather than yellow or red. I applied small dots of oil paint to the hull, leaving some panels with just one colour to build in some subtle colour variations. The oils were then blended with some white spirit using a clean brush, making sure the brush was only damp and not soaked with white spirit. Finally make sure you clean the brush regularly, during this I used two cups of white spirit, one for blending the oils, the other to clean the brush in between blending. 'Van Dyke Brown' oil paint was used for the recessed areas and the staining of the surface. I used a 000 brush to put some fine dots of paint on seam lines and in nooks and crannies then blended them with white spirit. If you wet the oils with the white spirit it will start to disintegrate, and form small chips and stains to the surface, looking very realistic.

DETAILS AND STAINS

The IR equipment received a wash of 502's Wash Brown and the glass parts were painted with acrylics. I used 'Periscope' from a Vallejo Panzer Aces set for the blue glass of the large lamp, later covering both lenses with some Tamiya X-19 Smoke to give it a darker and glossier appearance. Oil stains on the engine deck were made with Gunze Sanyo Oil and Life Color's Tensocrom Oil. Some more mapping was added to the red primer by diluting the base paint mix with some car windscreen cleaner and glazing it over the surfaces. The tracks were given some washes of 'Black-Grey' and 'Tracks Primer' over the semi-gloss black 'pre-shade'. After giving the wheels a wash and some chipping with 'Van Dyke Brown' I mixed up some MIG 'Russian Earth' pigments with Vallejo's Still Water and gloss varnish. This was applied to the wheels, tracks and suspension to give it a wet look.

WATERMARKS AND MUD

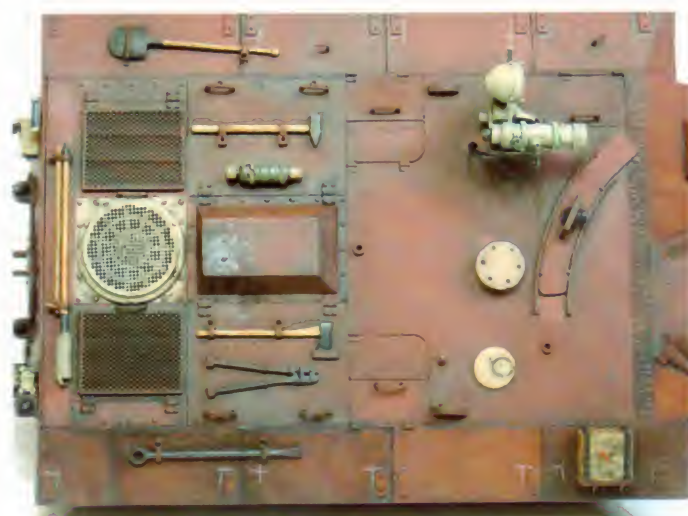
The wheels and tracks were also covered in this mixture with the pigments giving it a nice muddy water look. To be honest the wet look caused some serious headaches for me, as I was at first not able to get it to look just as I wanted it to. It took numerous attempts before I was finally pleased with the result. Having never done anything like this before I just started experimenting with various products, including 'still water', gloss and semi-gloss



The author used a scrap hull to try out some of the wilder camouflage schemes he had in mind. All the weathering techniques used were also first tested on this hull before committing to the actual model.



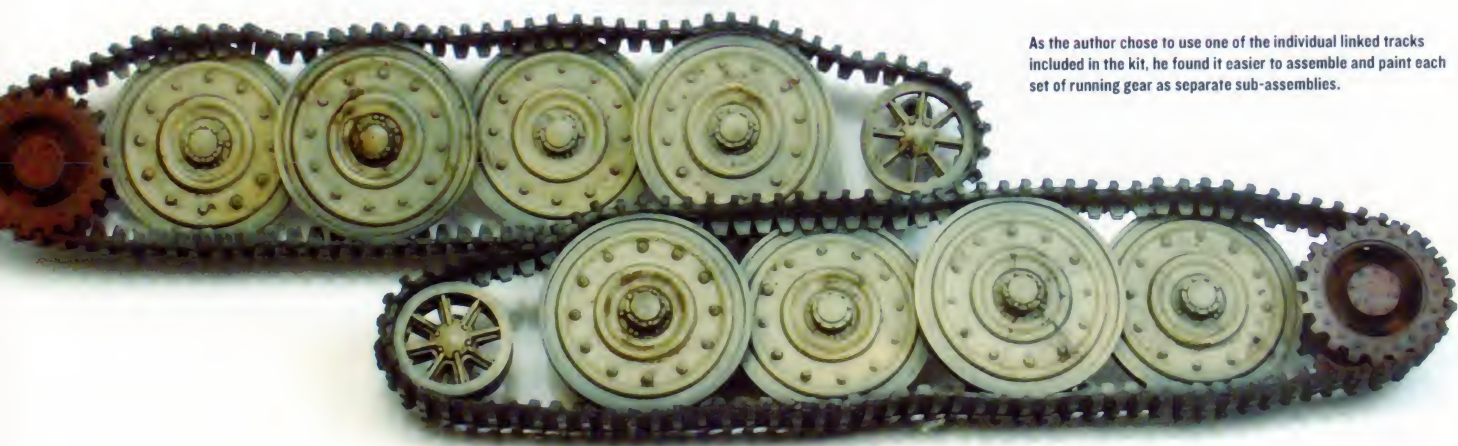
With the airbrushing of the red primer completed, the author felt the model needed certain components painted in dark yellow to break up the monotone finish.



A sharpened white pencil was used to simulate the welder's chalk marks used during the vehicles construction.



Here we can see that some of the bolt-on components have now been painted in dark yellow to represent items that have been manufactured in different factories, which obviously still have supplies of 'Dunkel Gelb'.



As the author chose to use one of the individual linked tracks included in the kit, he found it easier to assemble and paint each set of running gear as separate sub-assemblies.

Modelspec

Trumpeter Entwicklungsfahrzeug E-10 Item No. 385

Sets used

Pz.Kpfw.IV On-Vehicle Equipment Set No. 35185
IR equipment from Panther steel wheel version
No. 35174

Paints used

Tamiya: X-18 X-19 XF-59 XF-60
Vallejo: 056, 052, 028, 040, 081, 029, 001, 039,
985, 947, Matt, semi-gloss and gloss varnishes and
various colours from a panzer aces set.
Lifecolor: Tensocrom set 1+2
Mig pigments: Russian Earth P034, Industrial City
Dirt P039 and Dark Mud P033
Rembrandt oil paint: Van Dyke brown, Permanent red
and Naples yellow red.

- ✓ Excellent subject, nice details.
- ✗ Single link tracks are hard to assemble and suffer from ejector pin marks.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●

varnishes, adding pigments along the way. The varnishes were used to add some streams of water on the glacis plate, trying to replicate a natural flow. To achieve this I used a 000 brush and flowed some thinned varnish along the sides of the mantlet. It was then time to get dirty, I started out by mixing some 'Russian Earth' and 'Dark Mud' pigments with Vallejo Still Water. This mixture was 'loaded' onto an old brush, dabbed on a piece of paper to remove the excess mixture before being held in front of the model and then with my airbrush gave it a few blasts of air, which makes the mixture splatter on to the model. The angle of both the brush and airbrush are very important when doing this, make sure your 'mud' splatters from below, to get a natural look. I repeated this process a few times, until I was satisfied with the result. Some final streaks with gloss and semi-gloss varnish were added, and then it was done, the vehicle was ready to be used on the diorama. ■

Jan will describe how he created the diorama in part 2 next month.



An old paint brush loaded with a mix of Mig Productions pigments and Vallejo Still Water was held next to the running gear and then with the aid of an airbrush the mix was blown from the brush onto the model to create these realistic mud splatters..



The finished model is now ready to takes its place on the diorama. Note how realistic the glossy wet mud looks on the glacis plate.

DX-08

The Editor makes his annual pilgrimage to the MAFVA Nationals held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

Another beautiful day welcomed the many visitors to the WWII airbase at RAF Duxford for this year's combined MAFVA Nationals and Military vehicle rally. Again, not only does the museum contain so much to see on any normal day for us armour modellers, but on Sunday the 15th June it offers us an extra treat with The MAFVA Marquee full with many of the well known traders, including Accurate Armour, Millicast, Resicast, LSA Models, Friendship Models, Lou Stener's Armour Models and SB Models to name but a few. For modelling reference we were spoilt for choice with both Avid Reader and The Aviation Book Centre carrying a

great selection of titles for anyone wanting more reference or some inspiration for their next project.

It was good to see so many clubs attending with some excellent displays, it's also good to see so many people are actually building the kits they are buying instead of sticking them up in the loft and joining the ever growing 'to do' list. For me personally, the highlight was to see that the competition was so well supported with so many excellent models in all the classes and to be honest I can't say I could have picked a personal favourite, there were just too many I liked, one thing I will say is that I didn't envy the Judges trying to pick the actual winners.

OUT AND ABOUT

As usual the collection of real military vehicles on display outside the marquee were superb and it was great to see such a diverse spread, all of which were in immaculate condition, a true testament to the dedicated enthusiasts that spend so much time and money maintaining these wonderful machines for us to be able to enjoy.

As a side line the Sunday happened to be Father's Day and it was good to see so many families visiting and so many dads being dragged around by hyper-excited children to the echoes of "dad look at this" and "can I have one?". But best of all while I was on an emergency visit to the Eight's Air



Jason from LSA Models seemed to be doing brisk business throughout the day.



Even the green wheeled bus was seen trying to join in the cavalcade of wheeled military vehicles as they began their parade around the airfield!



Cammett had their 1:16 KV-1 and KV-2 as seen here built, painted and on display. We covered the preview of the KV-2 last issue, but you really don't get to fully appreciate it until you see one up close and completed.



Mark Peacock from our advertising dept cuts a dashing figure after setting up the ADH stand. Obviously I had to beat the members of the public out of the way with a large stick to be able to get this clear photo of the stand!



The marquee contained a good mix of club stands and traders as can be seen from this view.



Accurate Armour had one of their latest and very impressive Churchill TOAD conversions on display. The look of the heavy flail chains has been captured perfectly.



Dan Taylor's Model Works, not only had the amazing 1:76 Pegasus bridge on display but also their latest addition, the Whale Roadway and Concrete Beetles which make up part of the floating causeways used during the D-Day landing.



Lou Stener's Armour-Models stall was jammed full of all manner of conversions, detail sets barrels and etched brass. A real Aladdin's Cave of goodies for the super detailer.



Outside of the Land Warfare Hall was an impressive line up of large and 'very' large scale R/C military vehicles, most of which were late war German including this truly amazing 1:6 King Tiger!



A real monster on the move, if the way it made the ground vibrate as it trundled past wasn't enough to impress, then the back firing V12 petrol engine certainly made more than a few people jump out of their skin!



Just part of the many competition entries. Everyone has heard of a ship in a bottle, but what about a diorama on a jerry can?



Shaun Symonds' Zebra striped Italeri I:35 PT Boat.



Andy Burton's Panzer III Ausf. L eastern front, Winter 1942



Len Swaisland built this very impressive diorama titled 'Gunner Who?' around a new recruit arriving at the front to be greeted by the Sergeant Major!



Nigel Norfolk's nicely finished A7V Sturmpanzerwagen.



Steve Evans' German Machine Gunner (very highly commended).

Force Memorial Hall to use the facilities, I was walking behind two young boys forcing their dad to keep his eyes shut until they had entered the hall on the mezzanine level, where upon opening his eyes was confronted by the giant B-52 bomber staring right in his face and both his sons saying "we told you, you would be impressed", definitely one of those MasterCard, priceless moments. You can't beat dads and sons being surrounded by 'big boys toys', a perfect Father's Day.

THE BIG STUFF

At the westerly end of the mighty impressive Land Warfare Hall is an area roughly the size of a football pitch, which has been turned into an off-road arena where the museum's collection of armoured vehicles can be put through their paces. I could have sat and watched them making noise and churning up mud and dust all day, but unfortunately I did have to man the ADH Publishing stand. I did however manage to watch the

Chieftain Mk.11 and the monstrous Conqueror being displayed, both of which were truly impressive, I thought the commentator was very good as he really knew his stuff and offered fascinating facts and tit bits to keep both enthusiasts and the general public enthralled, my favourite fact was that the Conqueror when being driven hard could use up to 8 gallons per mile! And I thought it was expensive filling the car up to drive to the event!

Once again the day proved to be a huge success and a great day out for all the family, my hat goes off to Paul Middleton and all the Guys from MAFVA who worked so hard to make the event such a great day!

For more info on joining MAFVA please go to www.mafva.net





Olaf Kievit's IDF Merkava IID looked superb on its dusty rubble strewn base.



James Camplings' abandoned LVT-2 Buffalo looked amazing, including the very realistic water.



This excellent 1:48 Tiger I was also entered by Andy Burton but unfortunately wasn't placed in the competition.



Len Swaisland won a well deserved 1st place in class I4 (large scale wheeled or half-track AFV kit) with this Lanchester armoured car.



Glynn Spurr entered a nicely painted Accurate Armour 1:16 Scimitar.



Steve Evans has made a very nice job of painting and weathering Tamiya's I:48 StuG III G.





Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



DARTMOOR MILITARY MINIATURES

1:48 WWII US MP AND BRITISH POLICEMAN ITEM NO. 48M.023

1:48 WWII GERMAN PANZERSCHREK TEAM ITEM NO. 48M.024

1:32 WWII BRITISH WRAF OFFICER/ ATS GIRL ITEM NO. 32A.008

John Perry at Dartmoor Miniatures has been keeping busy of late producing some superb 1:48 white metal figure sets to complement the growing range of armour in this scale. The first set consists of two typically British looking figures, a 'Bobby' and a rather officious looking U.S. MP, stood with his arms beside his back and trusty baton on his belt. Either combined, or as 'stand alones' these would be perfect for a pre D-Day scene observing the embarkation of the Allied forces.

The Panzerschrek team contains two Panzer Grenadiers dressed in SS pattern camouflaged smocks and helmets, again as with all of the figures I have seen in this range the detail is excellent and will really be brought to life with some careful painting.

One point I did note while test fitting the nicely detailed Panzerschrek, was that part of the trigger guard will need to be removed to get a perfect fit for the firer's right hand, that aside this is another excellent set.

The third figure is something a little different as it is a 1:32 WRAF (Women's

Royal Air Force). This figure reminds me a lot of a guy I worked with at RAF Lyneham called 'Taff' Watts, who spent most of the day with a clipboard in hand, but never actually doing any work!

Anyway this again is a very nice figure that's been expertly sculpted and flawlessly cast and although 'she' is listed as 1:32, she would not look at all out of place in a 1:35 setting as she doesn't look over scale.

If you have been tempted to have a go at building some 1:48 armour but used the excuse that there were no figure to go with them, well thanks to DMM, you no longer have that excuse!

Available from www.dartmoormilitaryminiatures.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



PLATOON

1:35 RESIN FIGURES

U.S. RANGER, 1944 PT-037

PANZER CREW, 1944 PT-038

CIVILIAN OLD MAN PT-039

GERMAN FALLSCHIRMJAGER PT-040

UNTERSCHARFUHRER, 1 SS PANZER DIVISION, 1943 PT-042

This month we have a varied selection of figures from the Italian company, Platoon. All are cast in a very light grey resin with minimal flash. The Unterscharfuhrer I put together for the photos did suffer from a small amount of mould slippage down his right arm, but nothing a quick sanding couldn't get rid of. What I really did like is the way the arms and socket joints on the U.S. Ranger have a positive keyway making them line up perfectly which ensured that when his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) with integral trigger hand was glued on, it fitted perfectly. Whilst on the subject of the BAR it can be seen from the accompanying photo that the barrel will need some very careful clean-up due to the flash between it and the gas tube. Overall five more very good figures to keep the fans of both Allied and German subjects happy, it's also great to see another much needed civilian figure, to populate your next relevant diorama.

Available from www.historexagents.com

9.5/10 - The Editor





DRAGON

GEN 2 1:35 FALLSCHIRMJÄGER W/KURZER 8CM GRANATWERFER 42 ITEM NO. 6373

This set of four council workers, oops sorry that's not very PC, but they do remind me of that oh-so familiar scene of one doing all the work while the others all stand around offering advice!

What you actually get are four beautifully detailed Fallschirmjäger figures wearing their distinctive jump smocks and helmets, three of which are in relaxed poses whilst the fourth swabs out the tube of the 8cm mortar they are manning.

The parts all fitted together really well on the figure I assembled for the photos, it's great to see that these Gen 2 figures just keep getting better and better. Lack of detail has never been an issue with these sets, but the fit was less than perfect on some of the earlier sets due to the large number of parts required to make up each figure.

Talking of detail, it is absolutely stunning from the hob-nails on the soles of the boots to the facial expressions on the heads.

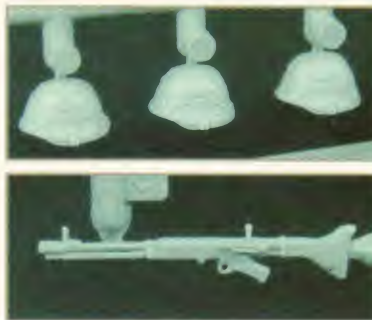
This quality also extends to the mortar, weapons and personal equipment and as usual Dragon have been more than generous and have included two full sprues of standard German WWII infantry equipment, such as helmets, bread bags, ammo pouches, canteens and mess tins.

Four further smaller sprues are included, which carry the parts for the mortar and ammunition along with the Para helmets and weapons.

Another great set of first class figures. Thoroughly recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

10/10 - The Editor



DRAGON

1:35 GERMAN OFFICERS KURSK 1943 ITEM NO. 6456

I'm going to stick my neck out here and say that this set of injection plastic figures is the best I have ever seen, the detail is every bit as good as Dragon's ground breaking Gen 2 sets but with far fewer parts. The crispness of the detail has to be seen to be believed, recently I had mentioned that companies such as MiniArt and MasterBox were snapping at the heels of Dragon when it came to producing the best injection figures, well I think that statement needs revising as Dragon have really stepped it up a gear with this set.

Although this set contains nowhere near the amount of extras as the equivalent Gen 2 set, you still get a couple of separate sprues containing six helmets with superbly detailed camouflage covers and a set of weapons, two Kar98 rifles, a MP40 and a FG42, which incidentally wouldn't have gone a miss in the Fallschirmjäger set!

If you have any interest in modelling German WWII topics, then get these. They are the best. Full stop. Available from all good model shops.

10/10 - The Editor



WEE FRIENDS

1:35 WW2 BRITISH PARATROOPER

Here we have one of the latest 1:35 scale figures to come from Wee Friends.

The figure depicts a British Para pointing to the right with a somewhat rather stern look on his face. The figure is cast in a cream coloured resin and comes in six parts.

The main bulk of the figure is cast in one piece, with all his webbing attached. Then we have two arms with the left hand holding the Enfield MK 1 cast separately.

We are also given the option of two heads, one wearing a camouflaged helmet and the other is wearing a beret which features a nicely rendered Para badge. The fit of parts is extremely good, so no need for filler here. The attention to detail is truly outstanding with some of the best sculpting I've ever seen. I really can't recommend this figure enough. Truly amazing.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - Glenn Bowen





Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

DRAGON

1:72 3RD FALLSCHIRMJAEGER DIVISION + KINGTIGER (HENSCHEL) PART 2 ITEM NO. 7362

This is part two of a two-part set, the first having been reviewed in MMI Issue 27 (July '08). The Tiger II kit is exactly the same, with just the four figures having different poses. In order to obtain the full set of eight unique figures across the two sets you have two choices. Either you'll have to purchase both sets or, as the set strangely comes with a duplicate set of the four figures, you'll have to swap the additional sprues with those of another modeller who has the first set. So at least it's possible to acquire just one Tiger model but a complete set of all eight figures!

The Tiger II model was originally released quite a while back, so this review won't go into too much detail on the kit. It's all moulded in plastic, unlike some of the very early Dragon releases and has a small photoetched fret for the engine deck grilles along with two single piece runs of Dragon Styrene (DS) track. The detail and moulding is very good, with most of the hull and turret hatches being opened up. There are a few weak areas, such as the moulded on tools and the cupola MG ring which is moulded as a solid part, but these will be relatively easy to improve if desired.

The figures are all new and their poses are based directly on those from a series of well-known photos (these figures are all in the standing position in contrast to the mostly seated figures of the first set). As with the figures of the first set, I have to say these are certainly amongst the best I have seen in this scale, in any medium. Each figure has separate torsos, legs, arms and heads and the facial expressions are all noticeably different and very life-like. They also scale out well and the proportions look spot on. The weapons and personal items of equipment are provided as separate items and again the detail, accuracy and moulding is superb.

In summary these are fantastic figures being exactly on a par with those included in set one. Dragon have announced more figures, to be included with a Panther kit. If those are of an equal standard then they will be very welcome indeed!

10/10 Figures 8/10 vehicle - Alex Clark



WATERLOO 1815

1:72 FOLGORE DIVISION INFANTRY 1942 ITEM NO. AP002

This month we see a couple of sets from Waterloo 1815 designed specifically with war gamers or younger modellers in mind. Our first set contains 44 hard vinyl soldiers in 11 different action poses, they are all well moulded with only a few suffering from some minor flash along the mould seams. As I mentioned above, these sets could be marketed with younger modellers in mind, I think it is a bit deceiving having the anti tank gun featuring so prominently on the box top, when there isn't actually one included which I think would be more than a little disappointing for a younger modeller buying these with his hard earned pocket money.

That small gripe apart, I'm sure these will prove to be a most welcome addition for anyone interested in war gaming the North African campaign. Distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited.

8/10 - The Editor



WEE FRIENDS

1:35 IDF TANK CREW

Our second set of figures from Wee Friends, is this very nice set of Modern Israeli Tank Crew. The three half figures have all been flawlessly cast in a light cream coloured resin with outstanding detail. Only the heads and arms for two of the figures are cast separately making assemble quick and easy. The arms fitted perfectly and required absolutely no filler what so ever. I did however have to carve a chunk from the back of the necks on all three of the heads to get them to fit correctly inside of the high collars on their body armour. It seemed as if they were generic heads and not ones designed specifically for these torsos. That small gripe aside, Pete Morton who sculpted these has really captured the look of the IDF Tanker's helmets, body armour and chest webbing perfectly. These really are a superb set of figures and ones I can thoroughly recommend.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



Book Reviews



ALLIED-AXIS NO. 20

THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

The Allied-Axis series is one of my favourite reference sources, as they really know how to cater perfectly for the modeller. The edition features the Raupenschlepper OST with a compilation of wartime photos and walk-around shots of various preserved vehicles. The second vehicle covered is the French Char Lourds FCM 2C. This ponderous 72-ton WWI developed tank is covered in a series of fascinating images taken by the Germans in 1940 after the train transporting them to the front line was captured.

Moving on, the next topic is the futuristic looking 3.7cm Flakzwillung 43. 12 period detail photos are included covering both the gun and crew, my personal favourite is the close-up of the gunner who is sporting a particularly impressive moustache that the RAF crews he is sporting a particularly impressive moustache that the RAF crews he is aiming at would be very proud to be seen wearing!

The final and largest section, covering some 45 pages offers a comprehensive study of the Autocar, Federal and White 4-5 ton 4x4 tractors. This section is interspersed with large clear photos of the vehicles in action as well as lots of superb detail shots of restored examples along with manufacturer's photos featuring vehicles fresh off the production line. Definitely a one stop reference source for anyone wanting to build the superb but complex 1:35 resin model kit from DES. Thoroughly recommended.

Available from www.historex-agents.com

The Editor



TRACKSTORY NO. 8

RENAULT D1

PASCAL DANJOU

EDITIONS DU BARBOTIN

62 PAGE 5/B

We are on a bit of a roll this month when it comes to reference for French armour. Trackstory No. 8 deals exclusively with the Renault D1. The dual language French/English text covers the development and operational history of the tank. The book offers superb clear black and white photos of every turn of the page, there is even a section on the Berliet GPE 4 transporter lorry, which actually loads the tank onto its flat bed in the same way a modern skip lorry loads a skip using a huge cantilever arm.

The last 12 pages contain some excellent side-view colour profiles showing some of the colourful and intricate camouflage schemes seen on specific vehicles. Each of these profiles is accompanied by an actual photo of the real vehicle, this is a great idea and something some other publications could do with adopting to back up their illustrations. A great addition to any reference collection. Wholeheartedly recommended.

Available from
www.bookworldws.com

The Editor



KÖNIGSTIGER IN COLOUR

MALOPOLSKA POLIGRAFIA SP.J.

WALDEMAR TROJCA

ISBN 978 83 60041 23 9

This new title is in a soft-back panoramic style, similar to that of the old Squadron Signal books and is printed in full colour. The book contains 54 pages, consisting solely of computer-generated, colour profiles of the Tiger II. Where all views are given, the side profiles are one to a page, while the front and rear views share a page. This basically means that 4 pages are devoted to a single vehicle's markings and paint scheme. Occasionally there is a three-quarter view, or the vehicle is superimposed against a natural backdrop, again these are one view to a page.

Each image has a brief caption below it, giving vehicle type, Abteilung and theatre of operation whilst sporting this scheme. Where known, the commander's name is also given.

With the exception of these captions, there is no other text in the book, so any further analysis of the vehicle's type and specific features are down to the modeller to determine and research elsewhere. Personally I'd like to have a little more information on which to base my models, besides the attractive pictures. On the plus side though, the book does make it easier for modellers who find it difficult to determine camouflage schemes from black and white pictures themselves, although even the experts' views are called into question occasionally. In addition, if you just want to build and paint your model in an attractive scheme and don't wish to invest too much time and money into references, then this book will fit the bill perfectly.

If all you want are ideas for painting your freshly built Kingtiger, then I can recommend this to you.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.com

Darren Thompson



Letters

RECOMMENDED READING

GOVERNMENT ISSUE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE

U.S. ARMY EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
HENRI-PAUL ENJAMES
HISTOIRE AND COLLECTIONS PUBLICATIONS
HARDCOVER 252 PAGES LARGE FORMAT

By telling you about this book I'm giving one of my trade secrets away! Whether it be for getting the colours right regarding virtually every item of clothing and equipment used by the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII, or to help me sound like I know what I'm on about when writing up any of the WWII American figure sets we have had in for review, this book has proved to be worth its weight in gold as a truly valuable reference source. If you have any interest in G.I. uniforms and equipment then this is a must for your collection. I know I use this quote a lot but "this really is a one stop reference source!"



30 YEAR SABBATICAL

It has been about 30 years since building my last military model and I have decided to return to military model building once again. The first thing I did was to check out the modelling scene by purchasing a modelling magazine and after perusing the magazine shelves I opted for Model Military International. I was not disappointed, this is an excellent publication and I will be buying next month's publication. I thought the Kit Review of the AFV Club 1:35 Sturmtiger was excellent and with the photographs of the actual Sturmtiger later in the magazine was a treat. Having the photographs to compare to the finished model was great for comparison, but one thing I did notice and I may be wrong, the mantlet on Pete Usher's model may be upside down. I know that model builders like to get their models as accurate as possible, therefore if the mantlet is the wrong way up, I am sure Pete would want to know so that he can rectify it. After reading Dennis Brandle's article "Danube Defender" I have decided my first build will be the new DML Panther kit. Keep up the good work and I look forward to the next issue.

Kind regards.
Trevor Carré, Jersey

Ed says: Welcome back Trevor, I'm sure the first thing you have noticed is how many new models and products are available today that weren't around 30 years ago. As you may have seen from the articles, lots of new techniques are in use as well, but hopefully from reading the technique guides we include each issue these should be fully explained and hopefully provide you with many tips for building your Dragon Panther.

As for telling Pete he glued the mantlet on upside down, I will leave that to you as he is a 6'4" ex Guardsman who is now a builder!

ISSUE 27

In the latest 'Message from the Editor' you said that you thought you "would never win this one", referring to the issue of having "too much German, or not enough (?)". I've followed this German issue with interest and am satisfied that I understand how the modelling business operates, and what challenges exist for magazine Editors. I know that you're limited each month to whatever suitable material is submitted. With Issue 27, I personally think YOU WON BIG TIME. For me the July issue is just perfect. You have the obligatory best-latest-Tiger kit of course, but then there's a great Tech Guide with Chema Cabrero's T-34 conversion (pleased to have

an alternative to the Cyber-Hobby kit). This is followed by a very nicely done Gulf War Challenger 1 by Matt Edwards - wonderful photos! And the biggest jolt (for me) was Andy Taylor's "Terrific Tiran"! Couldn't believe the luck in having this article in your magazine. I have all of Moustafa Assad's "Blue Steel" books and Mr. Taylor's Tiran 4 is superb! A real inspiration for an ambitious project. Lastly, with all the usual fine features, you've included Ralph Zwilling's reference photos for a Stryker. Wow. I've been a subscriber from the first Issue. There's good useful stuff each month, but I think July 2008 is a real landmark issue! Thanks very much for your efforts.

Best Regards,
Lee Barbaro,
Kyoto, Japan

Ed says: Dear Lee, you really hit the nail on the head there. We are totally reliant on what articles are submitted each month. In an ideal World the models I send out for review would all come back built, painted and finished the very next day so I could plan exactly the right mix of subjects for each issue, but as we all know that never happens! But thankfully I do have many of the best armour modellers around that constantly supply me with some amazing models covering a varied and diverse range of topics, without whom Model Military International would not be the success that it is.

HANGING UP THE TOOLS

My dad has always been a keen modeller, especially of military subjects but due to illness has had to hang up his modelling tools. After some interrogation and trying not to let the cat out of the bag I found out that my dad has been doing nothing but military models since he was 13. Which is

a good 50 + years. My mom said that ever since they met they have lugged all his models from place to place.

I am 30 years old now and as far back as I can remember my Dad has spent countless hours sitting at his desk putting models together and now he is just no longer able to do that anymore.

I know he had made this diorama that he was very proud of and I also think looks really good, I also know he spent a lot of time working on it and it gave him many ours of pleasure.

So for a belated Father's Day I thought it would be cool to see if I could get a couple of photos of his diorama published in your magazine, kind of a final farewell to models for him.

Thank you so much for doing this I really appreciate it. It will mean a lot to me and I know my dad will be completely blown away.

Matt Schmieder

Ed Says: It's my pleasure Matt, and to your Father, David I'm sorry to hear you have had to hang up your modelling tools. I'm not really sure what else to say, as I can't really imagine what it would be like to give up a hobby that has given so much pleasure for so long. Best wishes for the future from all at MMI.

BIG, BUDGET BUILDS

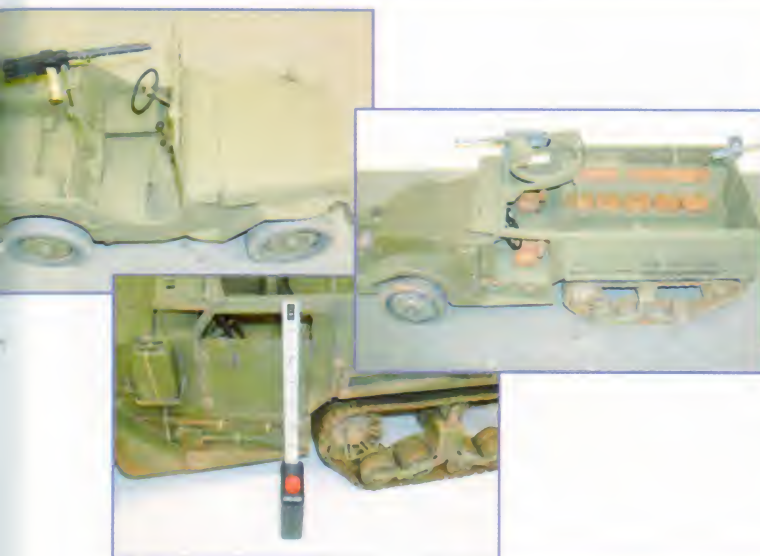
I thought that it was time I wrote to you once more and send you some images of my latest scratchbuilt models. These were constructed from plastic card alone without all the aids of etched brass and resin moulded items or even any mould at all, they were built as models should be built by hand making all the individual parts and in the case of the larger of my two latest models the M3 halftrack that would be in the region of over



WRITE TO:

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.



one thousand hand cut parts. I enjoy the magazine and read about all the latest add-ons and moulded sets and at times I wonder just how far this process will go, maybe we should just start with a bunch of etch brass and resin and then add the plastic bits to it to form a model. One of the latest letters in the magazine from Mr Dave Berry goes on about the limited budget of modellers, well why not get back to basics, the two models which I have constructed and which are a large scale, had a total cost of around £30, including paint and adhesives. Maybe if you printed an image of one of my models and told the readers about the cost and how they were put together from a flat sheet of plastic it may inspire others to start making more models from scratch as many popular AFV's are not yet made by the main stream manufacturers and if they are? They are in a very small scale. Keep up the good work and please try to get more readers letters in the mag as they are after all the people who keep the magazine going.

Yours sincerely
Mr Barrie Clucas



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

COMPETITION

As you may have spotted on the cover of this issue we have, in conjunction with The Hobby Company Limited, a fantastic competition this month offering the chance to win a number of Tamiya 1:35 Military Miniatures kits and MMI subscriptions to help celebrate Tamiya's 40th anniversary of 1:35 Armour modelling.

All you have to do is answer the simple question and pop your answer onto the back of a postcard and post it to the address shown. Or alternatively, for the best chance of winning, pop your answer on the back of a £50 note addressed to the Editor! Just kidding.

Make sure you have a go as these really are superb prizes and all for the price of a stamp. Best of luck.

See you again on September 4th!

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

RANDOM REFERENCE!

CHURNING IT UP

The MAFVA Nationals held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford in June is always a great place to get reference material and this year's show proved very fruitful.

The Chieftain Mk.11 being put through its paces in the arena certainly made a splash as it went through the mud holes on the otherwise dusty circuit. Purely from a weathering point of interest is the contrast between the fresh wet mud and the dry mud which has turned much lighter shade as it's dried. Certainly one to practice with using some of the excellent weathering products available to today's modellers.



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FORD'S FIRST S.U.V.

Doug Frame examines Tamiya's second incarnation of their M8 Armoured Car, the M20 Armoured Utility Car.

Unsurprisingly the M20 Armoured Utility car has been released from Tamiya following their recent M8 Greyhound A/C.

The M20 was basically the M8 without the turret and 37mm gun, being replaced with an open topped low armoured superstructure serving as a seated area

for troops and staff officers. The turret being given up for an open ring cupola with 50cal MG.

The M20 saw service in the ETO and later in Korea, some making it to Vietnam and various post war USA equipped countries, mainly in the Police role, many shiny examples being seen on parades and out side of airports on security detail.

The kit as you would expect is unchanged from the M8 and being Tamiya a breeze to assemble while still featuring the ever present die cast chassis.

The new open top superstructure features nice detail including the map table (folded up in the instructions but can be positioned lowered). The M9A1 bazooka is included and some stored ready rounds, along with some side wall detail boxes. Unfortunately that's where the interior details stop, thus missing the two SCR-508 and SCR-694 radios (mentioned in the instructional history brief?), as is the Carbine racks and additional item details. This was disappointing as given its open topped appearance even with the MG cupola fitted, these lack of details

show through. Although many M20s show the foul weather cover added in the ETO, which could cover the gap, this is not included in the kit, lets just hope one of the aftermarket manufacturers bring one out in resin in the not too distant future.

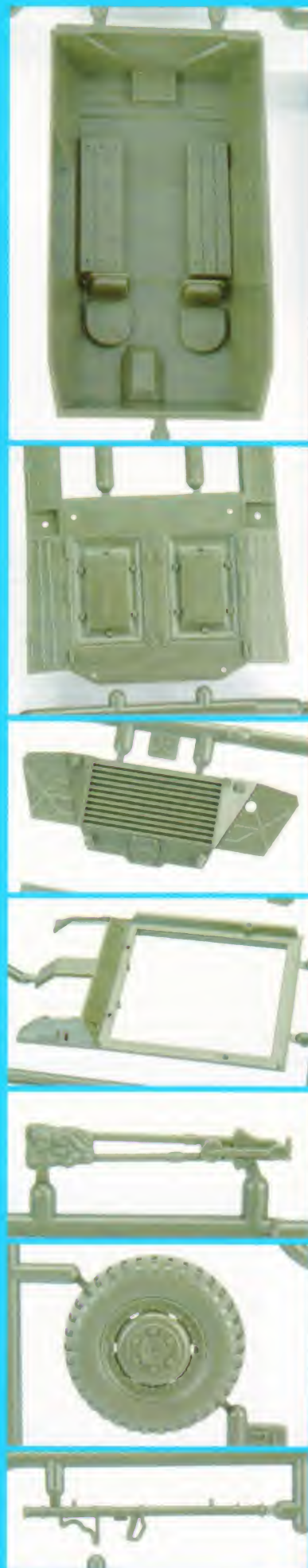
The cupola itself is a sure fit and finishes the look of the M20.

Two figures are included and although both have similar body shape, new arms and faces give them individualism.

These vehicles were often seen festooned with stowage due to the lack of interior space, many featuring field applied rear racks. No stowage items are included with the kit but the resin boys should help out in this area. M20s (as did M8s) often had their side sections removed in combat to solve the build up of mud etc, thus giving them a more aggressive look, many even having their wheels snow chained !!! It would be great to see if the aftermarket companies could provide these as well.

Markings for two vehicles are included, one serving in France, August 1944, the other Germany, 1945.

Another great addition to the 1:48 family, only slightly marred by the simplified interior space. Highly recommended. ■





References - T17E1 STAGHOUND ARMoured CAR

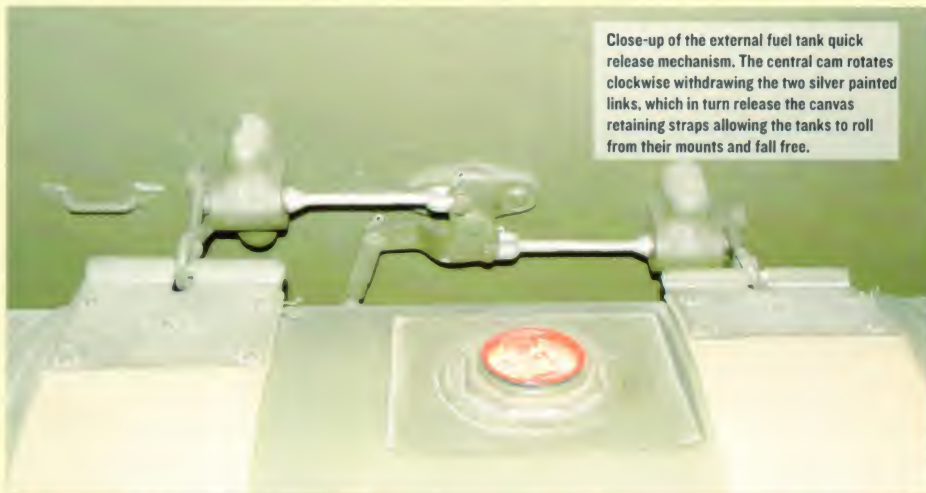
The Cadman brothers Staghound as seen at the War and Peace Show, July 2007. This has to be the best restored example of the Staghound in the UK.



STAGHOUND

Gary Norris offers us some useful reference photos of the beautifully restored Staghound Armoured Car on show at last year's War and Peace show held at the Hop Farm, Beltring in Kent. If you haven't started that Bronco or Italeri kit, then now is the time...

Close-up of the external fuel tank quick release mechanism. The central cam rotates clockwise withdrawing the two silver painted links, which in turn release the canvas retaining straps allowing the tanks to roll from their mounts and fall free.



▲ Right hand fuel line quick release coupling.



◀ In this photo the two sloped mounting brackets below the drum are clearly visible. These help the drum to roll off once the jettison handle has been pulled.



▶ Weathering junkies may take note of the mud splashes that have been thrown up onto the ends of the fuel drum and stowage locker.



▶ Tool stowage and mounting details the leaf spring suspension. Of interest is the Arm Of Service marking, which should actually be green over blue, not blue over green!



References - T17E1 STAGHOUND ARMoured CAR



◀ The stowage locker between the exhausts differs from the ones supplied in both Bronco and Italeri kits. This bin is generally used to stow snow chains for the wheels.

Engine deck details. Of interest here are the two brass butterfly nuts mounted on the brackets toward the outside edges of the hatches.



◀ Re-manufactured turret stowage bin. Note how the turret lifting lug has been cast as part of the actual turret casting.



◀ Shovel stowage location including tie-downs. Markings represent a vehicle from the Guards Armoured Division.

The exhausts have had to be remade during the restoration process and therefore are different to the parts in the Bronco and Italeri kits. ▶



◀ Close-up view of the external fuel line and quick release coupling.



References - T17E1 STAGHOUND ARMoured CAR



▲ Of interest here are the mountings for the headlights, these differ from the parts supplied in the Bronco kit and Italeri kits.



▲ Detail shot of the left hand fuel drum retaining clamps and stowage locker catches.

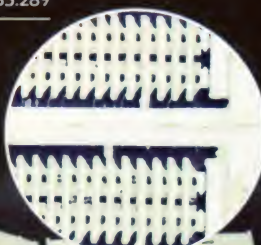
As can be seen here the texture of the turret casting is very smooth. Note also the weld seam joining the driver's compartment roof plate to the hull side. ▶



◀ The Staghound, as can be seen from this view was a very big vehicle. It weighed in at 14,500 kg and was 5.4 metres long. The Staghound was powered by two 97 hp GMC engines.



The highly detailed replacement resin tracks are a vast improvement over the items supplied in the Tamiya kit.



BETTER BRENS

Over the last couple of years the Belgian company Resicast have been producing some great sets for all things Allied. Graeme Carruthers looks at three of the latest.

These three new sets are designed to bring the old Tamiya Universal Carrier up to scratch and to add some ease to the building of your Tasca Firefly kit.

Firstly the Infantry Platoon set for the carrier is quite a comprehensive conversion set for the old Tamiya kit. This is surprisingly still the only plastic kit on this subject in town and although Tamiya have tried to dress their kit up a number of times with new figures etc., it is definitely showing its age these days and 'out of the box' will build into a good but very thickly detailed and rather simplified version of this important little vehicle.

The Resicast set is almost a complete kit in its own right and the only pieces of the Tamiya donor kit utilised are the lower hull tub, the main body sides and the running gear. A full, new resin interior is provided that contains delicate, better detailed and more refined parts with which to build

not only the basic platoon but also the command versions. The differences are well explained to you in the annotated black and white photos that comprise the instructions and you should read these first to familiarise yourself with the pieces you wish to add depending on what version you wish to build. The set also contains a etch sheet with over fifty pieces to add even more in scale thickness to the kit as well as all the sections of wire and plastic rod you require. Importantly for the carrier the Resicast box also contains a new set of resin track lengths and drive sprocket. Placed next to the old Tamiya track, which have no detail on their inner surface, you will see that there are almost two tiny resin links to each of the Tamiya thicker links and this will really improve the look of the vehicle. The pieces are all well cast in Resicast's pale green resin and although the box is jam packed with goodies no parts were warped or broken thanks to everything being well packed into little bags.

This is by no means a quick fix for your Tamiya kit but it will definitely make a more accurate and highly detailed carrier.

The next set is not a repackaging of Resicast's earlier Universal Carrier deep wading set but a completely new and updated set which will allow you to model a carrier either before, during or after an amphibious landing. Just like the real thing all the panels which give the carrier the extra wading height are individually cast. This means that you could show some removed or all in place as you wish. The small attachment pin brackets are very delicate and the instructions tell you to drill them out and show you how to place the securing pins properly. However in my example the brackets were so well moulded, the tiny brackets were hollow and no drilling was required, surely evidence of some superb casting by Resicast.

Lastly is a great little set to replace the suspension units on the Tasca Firefly. Now the units that come with the Tasca kit are

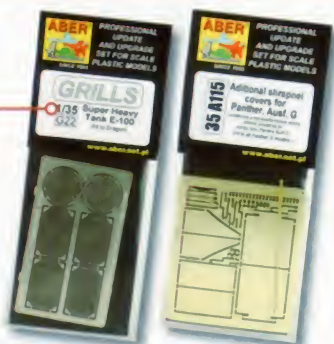
great and will give you a set of suspension which works just like the real thing and they are very well detailed but are complex and take a while to build. Resicast provide you with units in only two parts each and these contain things not seen on the Tasca units such as four bolt holes for the trailing arm to be fitted on the other side of the unit and the two tiny little securing bolts that are found between each of the spokes on the wheels, no having to add these tiny little beggars as on the Tasca kit!

These are three great sets that will either improve a kit by replacing most of it or by allowing you to build an area of the kit in about a tenth of the time. Either way they show why Resicast have the well deserved reputation of being one of the best aftermarket companies out there today.

Very highly recommended. ■

Available from Historex Agents in the UK or direct from www.Resicast.com





ABER

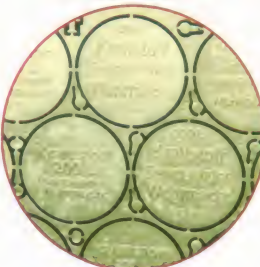
DETAIL SETS

Aber keep churning out some stunning updates and this month is no different, with some superb gun barrels including the amazing turned aluminium barrel and cast alloy muzzle for Tamiya's new JS-2 along with the set of two incredible turned brass barrels and cooling sleeves for MG34 machine guns. It is frightening how this hobby has moved on in the last 20 years, so much so that we almost take this micro precision-engineering for granted.

Two of the other sets that really caught my eye are the German 200 litre fuel drum end-caps and fillers designed to detail any of the existing fuel drum sets, from the likes of Tamiya and Italeri. The second are the etched brass 'Jabo' shields designed to protect the vulnerable engine intakes of a Panther tank. More excellent sets and something for everyone. Highly recommended.

- GERMAN STUK 40 L/48 7.5CM BARREL WITH EARLY MUZZLE BRAKE FOR STUG III F8 AND EARLY AUSF. G ITEM NO. 35 L-58
- RUSSIAN 122MM D-25T TANK BARREL FOR JS-2 ITEM NO. 35 L-69
- GERMAN WWII 200 LTR. FUEL DRUM COVERS ITEM NO. 35 A114
- ADDITIONAL SHRAPNEL COVERS FOR PANTHER AUSF. G ITEM NO. 35 A115
- JAGDPANTHER (SDKFZ. 173) TO FIT DRAGON KIT. ITEM NO. 35 224
- SET OF TWO BARRELS FOR GERMAN MACHINE GUNS MG34 ITEM NO. 35 L-70
- SUPER HEAVY TANK E100 ENGINE GRILLES ITEM NO. G22
- 1:48 BRITISH Q.F., 6 PDR 57MM MK.III GUN BARREL FOR TAMIYA CENTAUR AND CROMWELL ITEM NO. 48 L-08

Available from www.historexagents.com or direct from www.aber.net.pl
10/10 - The Editor



RETROKIT

'LIBYA' WHEEL SET FOR ITALERI'S AS42 SAHARIANA ITEM NO. ROG72001

This superb little set has been designed to replace the wheels and tyres in the Italeri 1:72 AS-42 Sahariana kit. Included are five new tyres, four wheel hubs, a new bonnet incorporating a recessed spare wheel holder and two tiny grab handles and wing nuts. The tyres included in the kit are supposed to represent the later pattern seen on vehicles operating during the Tunisian campaign during the beginning of 1943 where as the Retrokit items represent perfectly the earlier pattern 'Libya' tyre with its distinctive radial grooved and zigzag pattern tread.

Both detail and casting are first rate in this little update set and it is one I can wholeheartedly recommend for anyone wanting to do something a little different with the Italeri kit. Available from www.retrokit.net
9.5/10 - The Editor

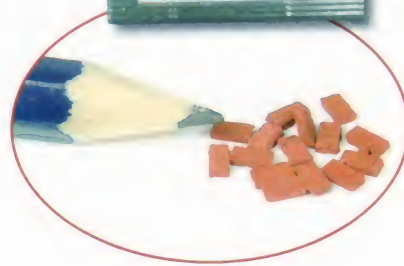


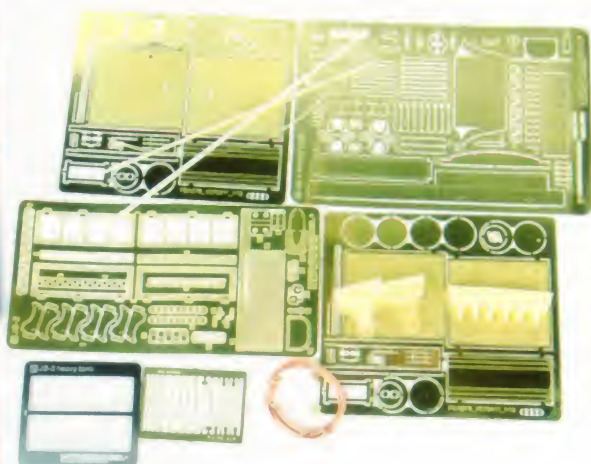
KALIBER 72

1:72 BRICKS ITEM NO. BL-007

First off I must give Kaliber 72 ten out of ten for the packaging, very shiny! Anyway, inside the box you get 250 red plaster-cast bricks.

These tiny bricks will, I'm sure be most welcome for modellers searching for much needed accessories for 1:72 scale dioramas. There isn't much else I can say other than thoroughly recommended. Available from www.retrokit.net
10/10 - The Editor





VOYAGER MODEL

ETCHED BRASS AND RESIN DETAIL SETS

We really are spoilt for choice these days with so many superb detailing sets. This month Voyager go to town on AFV Club's M5A1, Tamiya's superb JS-2 and Marder III M kits. I can see we will have to do another article on the JS-2 featuring as many of the updates available to see which is best.

WWII RUSSIAN JS-2 TANK (BASIC) FOR TAMIYA KIT. ITEM NO. PE 35221

WWII RUSSIAN JS-2 TANK FENDERS FOR TAMIYA KIT. ITEM NO. PE 35222

WWII US M5A1 EARLY VERSION FOR AFV CLUB KIT 35105. ITEM NO. PE35223

WWII GERMAN MARDER III M (BASIC) FOR TAMIYA KIT. ITEM NO. PE35224

WWII GERMAN MARDER III M FENDERS FOR TAMIYA KIT. ITEM NO. PE35225

WWII US ARMY M3/M5/M8 CULIN RHINO ITEM NO. PEA122

WWII US ARMY M3/M5/M8 GROUSERS ITEM NO. PEA124

SUN FLOWERS (SMALL) ITEM NO. TE 026

Available from www.voyagermodel.com or White Ensign Models in the UK.

10/10 - The Editor



RESCAST

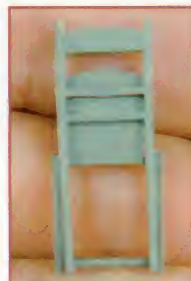
1:35 UK PRIEST STOWAGE NO. 1 ITEM NO. 35.2294

This comprehensive stowage set from Resicast has been designed specifically for the Academy M7 Priest. Included are two items designed to fit the transmission housing and two for the engine deck giving the modeller a choice of which one of the two items to fit in each position. Along with these larger castings are a whole host of smaller ones including, ammo and ration boxes, jerry cans, bedrolls, cardboard ammo tubes, a covered .50cal machine gun and even a fold-up chair. The detail and quality of casting throughout is second to none, I particularly liked the way the creases in the tarpaulins and the ropes used to tie them down looked so convincing.

Although the long awaited Academy M7 was a bit of a disappointment due to some inaccuracies etc., (see Graeme Carruthers Preview back in issue 21) I think this stowage set goes a long way to making the kit look superb. OK maybe by piling it high with stowage distracts the viewer's eye from the kit's shortcomings but it still looks really cool stowed up to the hilt.

Available from www.resicast.com direct or from www.historexagents.com in the UK

10/10 - The Editor



TRUMPETER

1:72 USMC LAV-25 ARMoured VEHICLE KIT NO. 07268

First of all I must say don't be misled by the painted model on the box top as this is actually a very nice kit featuring some superb detailing with the added bonus of being really easy to assemble. The model consists of 69 parts, including an extra set of eight wheel hubs, of which no mention is made in the instructions as to whether they can be used or not.

Detail overall is very good, the only down sides I could see would be for the super detailer, who would like to have seen separate crew hatches and pioneer tools. I personally think the moulded on tools look superb and I would certainly be happy painting these in situ. The hatches are a bit of a bigger issue, as trying to remove these to include crew figures would be pretty much impossible.

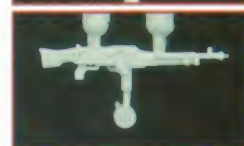
I was amazed at how good the vinyl tyres are, they are just as well detailed as the ones to be found in its 1:35 scale big brother.

Some of the smaller parts did suffer from a little flash, namely the turret basket and propellers, clean-up could prove a little tricky due to the size and delicate nature of these parts.

Only a single marking option is shown in the instructions for a vehicle in the standard three colour NATO scheme but on the actual decal sheet, UN and SFOR markings are included but no mention is made of them or where to place them! Overall a welcome addition to the 1:72 range of modern armour that's well detailed and easy to assemble. Definitely recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

8/10 - The Editor



Incoming



LIFECOLOR

ACRYLIC HOBBY COLORS

FLESH PAINT SET ITEM NO. CS-13

MIDDLE EAST BRITISH VEHICLE CAMOUFLAGE ITEM NO. CS-16

ITALIAN WWII REGIO ESERCITO UNIFORMS CAMOUFLAGE SET CS-14

CLEANER (FOR ACRYLICS)

ACRYLIC THINNERS

Lifecolor have been producing these box sets for some time, each set consists of six colour matched acrylic paints, which dry to an ultra-flat finish. So far we have seen sets for German and Italian armour along with a set of various shades of US Olive Drab, now we are being treated to a set of Flesh colours along with a set of British Middle East colours for British armour and a set for Italian uniforms. One interesting point to note is that the sets for the British vehicles and Flesh colours have actually been produced to dry to a satin finish as opposed to Lifecolor's normal matt one. The Middle East set will certainly take out all of the guesswork when trying to find the appropriate colours for the complex Caunter scheme seen on British vehicles operating in the North African campaign.

I have always painted the flesh areas of a figure using oils, I guess it's a case of stick with what you know. But I have for a long time admired the painting styles developed by the Spanish and Portuguese modellers who have mastered the technique of layering the paint, from dark to light to create some stunningly realistic effects. Well I guess with this new set I have no excuse to give it a try myself now thanks to this full set of shading and highlighting colours.

Available from the www.airbrushes.com and www.cammett.co.uk

10/10 - The Editor



VGT-2000

ULTRA SONIC CLEANER (E-SONIC-2000) 220/240V

Sonic Cleaners are a bit like buses, you don't see one for ages then two come along. Not that long ago we previewed the one available from Cammett, well both Cammett and the Airbrush Company have announced they will be stocking this updated version.

This updated model now features a digital timer, removable basket for holding the parts and hinged transparent lid with locking catch.

The 600ml stainless steel tank measures 15x9x5cm making it ideal for most modelling applications, whether it be airbrushes or components from radio controlled tanks etc.

The timing of this one's arrival could not have been better. The last model I sprayed was the Tamiya 1:48 Sherman, which I did a while ago (this job really gets in the way of my modelling!). Well I was about to start work painting my latest project, when I noticed the trigger had locked solid on my Iwata airbrush and straight away I knew what had caused it; my rush to pack away with out cleaning my airbrush thoroughly, it was gummed solid with very dry and very hard Lifecolor acrylic paint! Thankfully the Sonic cleaner had just arrived along with a Lifecolor Airbrush Cleaner. So I quickly unpacked it and read the easy to follow instructions before stripping the airbrush down as much as I could. I then placed the components into the basket and lowered into a mix of 30% cleaner and 70% water as recommended in the instructions, I then shut the lid and pressed the start button which sets the cleaner to automatically run for three minutes. The timer is also manually programmable from 1 to 60 minutes. Thankfully the ultra sonic action combined with the cleaner loosened up all of the rock hard paint from both the inside and outside of the brush and got it working and looking like new again.

Safe and environmentally friendly thanks to Lifecolor's non toxic cleaner and the ultra sonic cleaning action my airbrush is as good as new again.

Available from www.airbrushes.com

10/10 - The Editor

MONROE PERDU

DIORAMA PRODUCTS

1:32-1:35 MARKET UMBRELLA ITEM NO. MPD-044

Monroe Perdu have always had an eye for producing those great diorama subjects, whether it be large buildings or simple little space fillers. Well their latest is something I have not seen or tried before but thanks to their innovative use of laser-cut card and paper subjects such as this market/café umbrella and stand are possible. Simple to glue together with PVA or even better Deluxe Materials' Rocket Card Glue that we featured in Jan 08's Incoming. This is another of those great little products that you would just have to use on your latest diorama.

Available from www.monroeperdu.com

10/10 - The Editor





RESICAST

1:35 PRIEST 105MM AMMUNITION, CRATES AND SPENT AMMO CASES ITEM NO. 35.2295

Our second Resicast product this month keeps with the M7 theme and makes the perfect partner set for the stowage set. More often than not when these self propelled artillery pieces set up for a fire mission they are literally surrounded by mountains of ammo crates, spent cases and empty cardboard tubes. This type of scene became increasingly common around the winter of 1944 along the German border and during the Italian campaign as the fighting became more static.

As can be seen in the accompanying photos, some of the items are cast integrally with a rectangular section of groundwork, this has its advantages and disadvantages, it certainly saves the time in producing them and the modeller time in clean up and assembly, but it does pose the problem of blending these parts into the existing groundwork and it can also make painting a fiddly affair.

Resicast have however included 10 separate crates with both opened and closed lids along with a selection of empty cases, live rounds and cardboard tubes to scatter around the groundwork and visually tie in the other components. Still definitely recommended, but some skilful painting will be called for to bring out the best in this set.

Available from www.resicast.com

8.5/10 - The Editor



MIG PRODUCTIONS

PIGMENT FIXER 75ML

The first time I saw this fixer in use, was when Adam Wilder demonstrated its use in the Mig Productions DVD reviewed back in issue 26, where I thought this stuff looked excellent.

This Pigment Fixer is designed specially to fix their weathering pigments permanently. Up until now pigments have been applied dry or mixed with water or some other thinning agent, such as enamel or acrylic thinners into a wash or paste. These methods work perfectly well but the pigment is not attached permanently and can be brushed or rubbed off on purpose or by accident. Obviously this has its advantages, if you make a mistake when applying them and wish to wash them off and try again, then you can do so without any worries, but there are many occasions where the pigments need to be fixed permanently the first time they are applied. This fixer does not affect the paint and really bonds the pigment making it virtually impervious to handling etc. Well I'm glad to say, I have tried it for myself and it does work very well indeed on the Staghound AA conversion I'm building for a future issue.

Distributed by Creative Models in the UK, see their advert on page 10 for details.

10/10 - The Editor



LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:35 IDF UPARMOURED HUMVEE CONVERSION SET ITEM NO. LF1150

The Humvee has been around since 1984 and has proven itself to be a stable and adaptable platform. The vehicle has been exported from America to a number of countries including Israel, who in order to improve its crew's survivability the Israelis have added extra armour around the cab area.

This resin and etched brass conversion has been designed for the Academy Humvee kit, it will apparently not fit the dimensionally different Tamiya offering so don't even try! Luckily however the Academy base kit is pretty cheap and readily available. The kit provides you with a detailed new interior, new armoured sides and roof, exterior fittings, the roof weapons station and a complex roof mounted antenna system which is made from numerous etch pieces.

For such a small vehicle there is quite a lot to do in this conversion and there are a lot of etched parts that need careful bending meaning it probably isn't a conversion for a novice. The kit is moulded to Legend's usual high standards however there are a few things that you need to know. There are no measurements or formers to help you bend the provided wire to make the antenna's large guard, unless there are any measurements on-line then guesswork by looking at the instructions or photos of the real thing will have to do. In what was probably an attempt to keep the conversion's cost down, the kit doesn't provide you with a new set of the bigger, fatter wheels seen on contemporary Humvees but these can be sourced elsewhere from companies such as Blast Models.

All in all this is a great conversion that will appeal to all modern and IDF fans and with a bit of patience will give you an impressive little vehicle. Now all we need are some crew..... Highly recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers

Next Issue

On sale September 4th 2008



THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

Pete Usher gets his hands on Tasca's excellent 1:35 M4A1 Sherman



BIRDCAGE BORDER GUARD

Jim Carswell reviews Cromwell's Nagmachon conversion for the AFV Club Centurion Mk5/1

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



SICILIAN SIESTA

Mark Neville takes us through the thought process of creating a diorama such as this stunning scene based around Tamiya's 18t FAMO half track

...and much more!

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Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



CREATING A DIORAMA

PART 8

With the groundwork completed we continue with the figures. What we aim to do over the following issues is to offer a comprehensive step-by-step guide to figure painting so that anyone can give it a try.



The standing Sergeant figure had a couple of blemishes on his elbows, one was a small air bubble where the casting plug had been removed and the second was caused by not sanding off the plug sufficiently from his left arm.



With small air bubbles such as this on his right elbow, a quick way to fill them is with a drop of cyano adhesive (super glue). This is best applied using a pointed implement such as a cocktail stick, or in this case an old airbrush needle.



The glue has been allowed to set for a few seconds before the excess glue is carefully removed using fine grade sanding sticks. Note the build up of sanding residue under the armpit; this will be cleaned off before any further painting takes place.

Once assembled its time to check for any blemishes. To make this easier the figures are sprayed with acrylic grey primer. Last issue holes were drilled into the figures for brass rod to be inserted to help with handling. A pin vice makes the perfect handle.



The left elbow only required some extra sanding. The majority of the plug was removed with a fairly coarse sanding stick before final clean up using a very fine-grade sanding pad.



With the casting plug removed completely, all that remains is to brush off the dust particles and then spray on a little more primer to double check that the job has been done correctly.



As can be seen here the sanding has worked perfectly and the figure is now ready for painting.



Hycote acrylic primer is used to undercoat the figures. Hycote primer is usually available from discount car accessory shops and is generally less than half the price of the equivalent Halford's primer and I think works every bit as well.



The two figures are ready for the painting to begin in earnest.

GERMAN
Panzerkampfwagen II
Ausf. A/B/C (Sd.Kfz.121)
(FRENCH CAMPAIGN) Item 35292



French Front Spearhead

1/35 Scale Military Miniature Series

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Tamiya's 1/35 MM Series, and therefore the Panzer II, one of the mainstays of the German blitzkrieg, and a set of German infantry figures featuring accurate uniforms from that period have been added to the lineup. The redesigned Panzer II model will enable creation of the Ausf. A/B/C variants that took part in the invasion of France, and the accurately reproduced compact form of the tank pays homage to Item 35009 Panzer II Ausf. F, the first tank model in the 1/35 MM Series. Likewise, the refreshed figures, which feature different arm parts to create various lifelike poses, brings to mind Item 35002 German Army Infantry, which was first released 39 years ago. With these two items, Tamiya's 1/35 MM Series continues to expand, remaining true to its roots while incorporating all the latest hobby industry advances.

Replica-Quality Realism

Parts and armor panels specific to each variant are included and structural details such as additional armor plates further enhance the model's character. Interior details including the commander's seat and gun breech are sharply rendered, while assembly-type tracks ease construction. Kit comes with 1 commander figure and 4 types of French Campaign markings.



Photo-etched parts for muffler cover.

GERMAN INFANTRY SET (FRENCH CAMPAIGN) Item 35293



Pick Your Pose!

Different arm parts means you can choose from over 8 different poses, and by using multiple kits, you can create a wide variety of diorama situations.



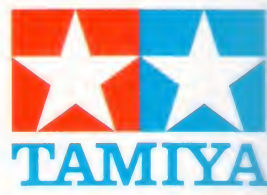
GERMAN 3ton 4x2 CARGO TRUCK Item 35291



GERMAN STURMGESCHÜTZ III Ausf. B Item 35281

Instruments of Blitzkrieg

Tamiya's 1/35 MM Series lineup includes such early-WWII German vehicles as the 3ton 4x2 Cargo Truck, the backbone of logistics units, and the Sturmgeschütz III Ausf. B, which provided fire support for infantry attacks. Together with the Panzer II Ausf. A/B/C or German Infantry Set, they are ideal for creating dioramas of that period.



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